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THE TEN PLEASURES OF MARRIAGE,

Relating

All the delights and contentments that are mask'd under the bands of Matrimony.

Written by A. MARSH, Typogr.

LONDON;
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To the Reader.

COurteous Reader,

This small Treatise which I here present unto thee is the fruit of some spare hours, that my cogitations, after they had been for a small time, between whiles, hovering to and fro in the Air, came fluttring down again, still pitching upon the subject of the Ten Pleasures of Marriage, in each of which I hope thou wilt find something worthy of thy acceptance, because I am sure 't is matter of such nature as hath never before been extant, and especially in such a method; neither canst thou well expect it to be dresst up in any thing of nice and neat words, as other subjects may be, but only to be clad in plain habit most fit for the humour of the Fancy. If I perceive that it please thee, and is not roughly or unkindly dealt with all; nor brain'd in the Nativity, to spoil its generation of a further product, it will incourage me to proceed upon a second part, some say of the some Tune, *but I mean to the same* Purpose, *and apparelled very near the same dress: In the mean time, with hopes that thou wilt be kind to this, and give it a gentle reception, from him who is thine: Farewell.*

The Ten PLEASURES Of MARRIAGE.

THE Nuptial estate trailing along with it so many cares, troubles & calamities, it is one of the greatest admirations, that people should be so earnest and desirous to enter themselves into it. In the jounger sort who by their sulphurous instinct, are subject to the tickling desires of nature, and look upon that thing called Love through a multiplying-glass, it is somewhat pardonable: But that those who are once com to the years of knowledge and true understanding should be drawn into it, me-

thinks is most vilely foolish, and morrice fooles caps were much fitter for them, then wreaths of Lawrel. Yet stranger it is, that those who have been for the first time in that horrible estate, do, by a decease, cast themselves in again to a second and third time. Truly, if for once any one be through contrary imaginations misled, he may expect some hopes of compassion, and alledge some reasons to excuse himself: but what comfort, or compassion can they look for, that have thrown themselves in a second and third time? they were happy, if they could keep their lips from speaking, and ty their tongues from complaining, that their miseries might not be more and more burdened with scoffings which they truly merit.

And tho not only the real truth of this, but ten times more, is as well known to every one, as the Sun shine at noon day; nevertheless we see them run into it with such an earnestness; that

that they are not to be counſelled, or kept back from it, with the ſtrength of *Hercules*; deſpiſing their golden liberty, for chains of horrid ſlavery.

But we ſee the braveſt ſparks, in the very bloſſoming of their youth, how they decay? Firſt, Gentleman-like, they take pleaſure in all manner of noble exerciſes, as in keeping time all dancing, ſinging of muſick, playing upon inſtruments, ſpeaking of ſeveral languages, ſtudying at the beſt Univerſities, and converſing with the learnedſt Doctors, &c. or elſe we ſee them, before they are half perfect in any exerciſe, like carl-cats in March run mewing and yawling at the doors of young Gentlewomen; and if any of thoſe have but a ſmall matter of more then ordinary beauty, (which perhaps is gotten by the help of a damn'd bewitched pot of paint) ſhe is immediately ador'd like a Saint upon an Altar. And in an inſtant there is as much beauty and perfection to be ſeen in

her, as ever Juno, Venus and Pallas possessed all together.

And herewith those Gentile Pleasures, that have cost their Parents so much money, and them so much labour and time are kickt away, and totally abandoned that they may keep company with a painted Jezebel. They are then hardly arrived at this intitled happiness, but they must begin to chaw upon the bitter shel of that nut, the kernel whereof, without sighing, they cannot tast; having no sooner obtained access to the Lady, but are as suddenly possest with thousands of thoughts what they shall do to please the Sweet object. Being therewith so tosticated, that all their other business is dispersed, and totally laid aside. This is observable not only in youth of the first degree, but also in persons that have received promotion.

For if he be a Theologue, his books drop out of his hands, and by strag-

ſtragling about his ſtudy, even as his ſences do, one among another. And if you hear him preach, his whole Sermon is nothing but of Love, which he then turns & winds to Divinity as far as poſſible it can be fitted.

If it be a Doctor of Phyſick, oh! he has ſo much work with his own ſicknes, that he abſolutely forgets all his Patients, though ſome of them were lying at deaths dore; and lets the Chyrurgian, whom he had appointed certainly to meet there, tarry to no purpoſe, taking no more notice of his Patients miſery, and the peril of his wounds, then if it did not concern him. But if at laſt he doth come, it is when the wound's feſtered, the Ague in the blood, or that the body is incurable. So far was he concern'd in looking after that Love-apple, or Night-ſhadow, for the cure of his own burning diſtemper.

If he be a Counſellor, his whole brain is ſo much puzzel'd how to be-

gin and pursue the Process for the obtaining his Mistress in Marriage; that all other suits tho they be to the great detriment of poor Widows and Orphans are laid aside, and wholly rejected. Then being desired by his Clients to meet them at any place, and to give his advice concerning the cause, he hath had such earnest business with his Mistress, that he comes an hour or two later then was appointed. But coming at last, one half of the time that can be spent, is little enough to make Mr. Counsellor understand in what state the cause stood ta the last meeting. And then having heard what the Plaintif and Defendant do say, he only tells them, I must have clearer evidences, the accounts better adjusted, and your demand in writing, before I can make any decision of this cause to both your satisfactions.

There they stand then, and look one upon another, not daring to say other-

otherwise, but *'t is very well Sir, we will make them all ready against the next meeting*; and are, with grief at heart, forced to see as much and sometimes more expences made at the meeting, as the whole concern of their debate amounted to. Then it is, come let's now discourse of matters of state, and drink a glass about to the health of the King and the prosperity of our Country and all the inhabitants; which is done only to the purpose, that coming to his Mistress, he may boastingly say, my dear, just now at a meeting we remembred you in a glass, & I'll swear the least drop of it was so delicious to me, as ever *Nectar* and *Ambrosia* could be, that the Poets so highly commend.

If Counsellors, and other learned men, that are in love, do thus; what can the unlearned Notary's do less? Even nothing else, but when they are writing, scribble up a multiplicity of several words, un necessary

clauses, and make long periods; not so much as touching or mentioning the principal busines; and if he does, writes it clear contrary to the intent of the party concern'd: By that means making both Wills and other Deeds in such a manner, that the end agrees not with the beginning, nor the middle with either. Which occasions between friends, near relations, and neighbors, great differences, and an implacable hatred; forcing thereby the monies of innocent and self-necessitated people, into the Pockets of Counsellors and Attorneys.

And alas the diligent Merchant, when he has gotten the least smatch of this frenzie, his head runs so much upon wheels, that he daily neglects his Change-time; forgets his Bils of exchange; and is alwaies a Post or two behind hand with his Letters: So that he knows not what Merchandises rise or fall, or what commodities are arrived or expected. And by this means buies

buies in Wares, at ſuch rates, that in few daies he loſes 20. yea ſometimes 30 per cent. by them. Nay, this diſtemper is ſo hot in his head, that thereby he Ships his goods in a Veſſel, where the Maſter and his Mate are for the moſt part drunk, and who hardly thrice in ten times make a good voyage.

And who knows not how miſerable that City and Country is, when a military perſon happens to ly ſick in this Hoſpital. If he be in Gariſon, he doth nothing but trick up himſelf, walk along the ſtreets, flatter his Miſtreſs, and vaunt of his knowledge and Warlike deeds; though he ſcarce underſtands the exerciſing of his Arms, I will not mention encamping in a Field, Fortification, the forming of Batalions, and a great deal more that belongs to him.

And coming into Campagne; alas this wicked Love-ague continues with him; and runs ſo through his blood,

that both the open air, and wide fields are too narrow for him. Yea and tho he formerly had (especially by his Mistris) the name of behaving himself like a second Mars; yet now he'l play the sick-hearted, (I dare not say the faint-hearted) to the end he may, having put on his fine knotted Scarf, and powdered Periwig, only go to shew himself to that adorable Babe, his Lady Venus, Leaving oftentimes a desperate siege, and important State affairs, to accompany a lame, squinteyd, and crook-back'd *Jeronimo*.

And if, by favour or recommandation, he happen to be intrusted with any strong City or Fort that is besieged, he's presently in fear of his own Bom, and practises all sorts of waies and means how he shall best make a capitulation, that so leaving the place, he may go again to his fair one.

And alas, what doth not the Master of a Ship, and his Mate hazard, when they are sick of this malady? What

What terrible colds, and roaring ſeas doth he not undergo, through an intemperate deſire that he hath to be with his nittebritch'd Peggy? How often doth he hazard his Owners Ship, the Merchants Goods, and his own life, for an inconſtant draggle-tail; that perhaps before he has been three daies at Sea, hath drawn her affection from him, and given promiſe to another? Yet nevertheleſs, tho the raging Waves run upon the Ship, and fly over his head, he withſtands it all. Nor is the main Ocean, or bluſtering *Boreas*, powerfull enough, to cool his raging fire, and drive thoſe damps out of his brain. The tempeſtuouſneſs of the weather, having driven him far out of his courſe; his only withes and prayer is, oh, that he might be ſo happy, but for a moment to ſee his Beacon, thoſe twinkling eys of his dearly beloved Margery Muſſel! Then all things would be well enough! Tho he and

all that are with him, were immediately Shipwrackt, and made a prey for the Fishes. And if, unexpectedly, fortune so favour him, that he happens to see the Coast, oh, he cannot tarry for the Pilot! but tho it be misty weather, and he hood-wink'd by Venus, still he sails forward, running all in danger, that before was so far preserved.

And if the Shop-keeper once sets foot into this destructive Wilderness, he doth nothing less then look to his shop, and wait upon his Customers. Spending most part of his time in finical dressing himself, to accompany his Mistris, and with a Coach or Pair of Oars to do her all manner of caresses. Then his whole discourse is, with what good custom he is blest above others; but seldom saies, that with waiting upon his Lady, and by indeavouring to please her above all things, how miserably he neglects it, by which means, shop's not only found

found without a Master, but the servants without government. And at New-year, the day-book is not written fair over; and if any body desires their reckoning, the squire is so full of business, that he can't spare half an hour to write it out: For where he goes, where he stands, what he thinks, what he does, all his cogitations are imploi'd to think how delicious it is to press those soft lips of his beloved, and then out of an unfeigned heart to be lov'd again, sometimes receiving a kiss. Thus he idles away all his time, and all his business with his fences runs a wool-gathering.

To be short, let it be what sort of person it will, they no sooner touch the shel of this Marriage-nut, but before they can come to tast the kernel they look for; they feel nothing else then thorns and briars of sorrow and misery. If there be any one

that thinks he is gotten a footstep further then another, in the favour of his Mistris, and that in time he questions not th'obtaining his desired happiness; immediately, that imagined joy, is crush'd with an insuing despair; being presently molested with a fear, that Father, Mother, Uncle, or Tutor will not like his person, or that he has not means enough; or else either they, or the Gentlewoman, will make choice of another in his place. Or, if he sees another have access to the Lady as well as himself, at the same moment he's possessed with jealousie, and falls a pondering how he shall make this Rival odious in the eys of her. And if the other get any advantage of him; then he challenges him to fight; hazarding in that manner his precious life, for the getting of her, who when he had her, would perhaps, occasion him a thousand torments of death and misery. Pray observe what pleasures this introduction imparts unto us; alas,

alas, what may we then expect from the marriage it self?

Really, those that will take this into due consideration, who would not but curse the Gentlewoman that draws him into such a raging madness? yet Lovers go forward, and please your selves with this imagined happiness; but know, that if according to your hope, you obtain her for a Bride, that at the least you must expect a sence and feeling of the Ten insuing Pleasures.

THE FIRST PLEASURE.

The Consent is given, the Match concluded, and the Wedding kept.

NOw, O Lover, till this time you have been indeavouring, slaving, turmoiling, sighing, groaning, hoping and begging to get from those slow and tardy lips, that long-wish'd for word of Consent; you have also sent many messengers to your Mistris, to her Parents and Tutors, who were as able to express themselves as the best Orators, but could obtain nothing; yet at last that long desired Word, is once descended by the Draw-bridge of her lips, like a rich cordial upon your languishing heart. You have vanquish'd all your Rivals. Oh who can

can imagine your joy! What you think, or what you do, ſtill your thoughts glance upon your happineſs! your Miſtris now will be willing; denials are laid aſide: only ther's a little ſhame and fear, which canot of a ſudden be ſo totally forgotten, becauſe the marriage is not yet concluded. Well, o Lover, who could deſire a greater happineſs then you now poſſeſs! For what you will, ſhe will alſo: and what ſhe deſires, is all your pleaſure. You may now tumble in a bed of Lillies and Roſes; for all four looks, are turn'd to ſweet ſmiles, and ſhe that uſed to thruſt you from her, pulls you now every foot to her. Yea, thoſe ſnow-white breaſts, which before you durſt ſcarce touch with your little finger; you may now, without asking leave, graſp by whole handfuls. And the place which your thoughts durſt hardly approach to, you may now take hold of with your five-pointed fork.

fork. Certainly, they that at full view, consider all this rightly; who can doubt but that you are the happiest man in the World? O unspeakable pleasure!

But, o triumphant Lover, let not however your joyfull mind run too much upon these glistering things: be a little moderate in your desired pleasures, if it might happen that there come some cross-grain'd obstructions; for I have oftentimes seen, that all those suspected roses, come forth with many pricking thorns; insomuch that the mouth which at first was figured with so many thousand kisses, and appear'd as if it had been cover'd with the dew of heaven; was compared to be the jaws of *Cerberus*. And those breasts, which before were the curded *Nectar*-hills, and called the Banket of the Gods, I have seen despised to be like stinking Cows-Udders; I, and call'd worse names to boot. Be therefore, (I say) somewhat mo-

moderate and prudent, for fear it might happen that the prices of this market might fall very suddenly, though perhaps not so horribly.

Nevertheless you have great reason to be merry, for this week, 't is hop'd there'l be a meeting to close up the match; and it is requisite, that yourshould go unto all the friends, that must be present at the meeting, to hear when their occasions will permit them, and what day and hour they will appoint to set upon the business, herewith you have work to traverse the City, and who knows whether you'l find half of them at home. And then those that you do find, one is ready to day, another to morrow, a third next day, or in the next week. So that by this first Pleasure, you have also a little feeling of the first trouble. Which, if you rightly consider, is to your advantage, because you may the better use your self to the following. And of how

greater

greater State and Quality the person is whom you have chosen, so accordingly this trouble generally happens to be more.

But the mirth increases abundantly; when, after your indeavours, troubles and turmoils, you finally see all the friends met together, and you doubt not but the match will be closed and agreed upon. But be here also a little moderate in your mirth, because oftentimes the friends handle this matter like a bargaining; and will lay the mony bags of each side in a balance, as you may see by the Plate.

In the mean while you may be kissing and slabbering of your Mistris in the next room; or contriving what's to be done about the marriage, and keeping of the Wedding; but perhaps, through the discord of the friends, it will not be long before you are disturb'd; the differences oft rising so high, that the sound thereof, clatters through

through the Walls, into the ears of the Lovers. For many times the Portion of one is too great, and what's given with the other is too little; or that the Parents of the Bridegroom, promise too little with their Son; and the Brides Parents will give too little with their Daughter. Or else that by some subtle Contract of Matrimony, they indeavour to make the goods of each side disinheritable, &c. So that it appears among the friends, as if there could be nothing don in the matter.

And in plain truth, the Parents and friends, who know very well that it is not all hony in the married estate; see oftentimes that it were better for these two to remain unmarried, then to bring each other into misery; and can find no grounds or reasons, but rather to disswade then perswade the young folks to a marriage.

But tho, on each side, they use never

never such powerfull arguments, to the young people, 't is to no purpose; for there's fire in the flax, and go how it will; it must be quencht. For the maid thinks, if this match should be broke, who knows but that all the freedom that we have had with one another, might come to be spread abroad, and then I am ruined for ever. And the young man, seeing that his Mistris is so constant to him, not hearkning to the advice of her friends, is so struck to the heart with such fiery flames of love, that he's resolved never to leave her, tho he might feed upon bread and water, or go a begging with her: So, that he saies, Bargain by the Contract of Matrimony for what you will, nay tho you would write Hell and Damnation, I am contented, and resolve to sign it: but thinking by himself, with a Will all this may be broken, and new made again: hardly beleeving, that this fair weather, should be darkned

darkned with black clouds; or that this splendent Sereniſſimo, would be obſtructed by Eclipſes.

But finally, there comes an appearance of the deſired pleaſure; for the knot is tied, and the Publick Notary doth at large and very circumſtantially write the Contract of Matrimony, which is ſigned by both parties. Oh Heavens! this is a burthen from my heart, and a Milſtone removed out of the way. Here's now right matter for more then ordinary mirth; all the friends wiſh the young couple much joy; about goes a health, the good ſucceſs of the marriage, and every one wishing them tubs full of bleſſings, and houſes full of proſperity,

If ev'ry one that wish, did half but give,
How richly this young couple, then might live.

Yet it ee'n helps as much as it will; if they

they get nothing, they lose nothing by it. And thinking by themselves, you'l in time see what it produces. Then if there be but one among them who is talkative, and that by drinking merrily the good success of the approaching marriage, his tongue begins to run; he relates what hapned to him at the closing of his marriage, keeping of his wedding, and in his married estate; and commonly the conclusion of his discourse is, that he thought at first he had the World at will; but then there came this, and then that, and a thousand other vexatious things, which continually, or for the most part of the time with great grief and trouble had kept him so much backward, that it was long before he could get forward in the World.

Well, Mr. Bridegroom, you may freely tickle your fancy to the top, and rejoice superabundantly, that the Match is concluded; & you have now gotten

gotten your legs into the ſtocks, and your arms into ſuch deſired for Fetters, that nothing but death it ſelf can unlooſen them.

And you, Mrs. Bride, who look ſo prettily, with ſuch a ſmirking countenance; be you merry, you are the Bride; yea the Bride that occaſions all this tripping and danſing; now you ſhall have a husband too, a Protector, who will hug and imbrace you, and ſomtimes tumble and rumble you, and oftimes approach to you with a morning ſalutation, that will comfort the very cockles of your heart. He will (if all falls out well) be your comforter, your company-keeper, your care-taker, your Gentleman-Uſher; nay all what your heart wiſh for, or the Heavens grant unto you. He'l be your Doctor to cure your palefac'dneſs, your pains in the reins of your back, and at your heart, and all other diſtempers whatſoever. He will alſo wipe of all your

tears with kisses; and you shall not dream of that thing in the night, but he'l let it be made for you by day. And may not then your Bride-maids ask, why should not you be merry?

But alas you harmless Dove, that think you are going into Paradice; pray tell me, when you were going to sign the Contract of marriage, what was the reason that you alter'd so mightily, & that your hand shook so? Verily, though I am no Astronomer, or caster of Figures; yet nevertheless me-thought it was none of the best signs; and that one might already begin to make a strange Prognostication from it; the events whereof would be more certain then any thing that *Lilly* or any other Almanack-maker ever writ. But we'l let that alone, for in a short time it will discover it self.

Therefore, Mistress Bride, make you merry, and since you have gotten your desire to be the Bride before any of

of your Bridemaids; it would be unreasonable that you should be troubled now with any other business. And indeed here's work enough for the ordering of things that you must trouble your head with; for the Brides Apparel must be made, and the Stufs, laces, lining, cuffs, and many other things are yet to be bought. Well, who can see an end of all your business! There's one piece of stuf is to light, and another to dark; the third looks dull and hath no gloss. And see here's three or four daies gon, and little or nothing bought yet.

And the worst of all is, that whil'st you are thus busie in contriving, ordering and looking upon things, you are every moment hindered, & taken off from it, with a continual knocking at the dore to sollicite one to deliver all sorts of Confits, another to deliver the ornaments for the Brides Garland, Flowers, &c. a third to be Cook, & Pastryman, & so many more,

which come one after another thundering so at the door, that it is one bodies work to let them in, and carry their message to the Bride.

Oh, call the Bride, time will deceive us! The Semstress, Gorget-maker, and Starcher, must be sent for, and the linnen must be bought & ordered for the Bridegrooms shirts, the Brides smocks, Cuffs, Bands, and handkerchifs; & do but see, the day is at an end again: my brains are almost addle, and nothing goes forward: For Mrs. *Smug* said she would bring linnen, and Mrs. *Smooth-laces*, but neither of them both are yet come. Run now men and maids as if the Devil were in you; and comfort your selves, that the Bride will reward you liberally for your pains.

Well, Mrs. Bride, how's your head so out of order! might not you now do (as once a Schoolmaster did) hang out the sign of a troubled pate with a Crown upon it? How glad you'l be when

when this confusion is once over? could you ever have thought that there was so much work to be found in it? But comfort your self therewith, that for these few troublesom daies, you'l have many pleasant nights. And it is not your case alone, to be in all this trouble, for the Bridegroom is running up and down like a dog, in taking care that the Bains of Matrimony may be proclaim'd. And now he's a running too and again through the City, to see if he can get Bridemen to his mind, that are capacitated to entertain the Bridemaids and Gentlewomen with pretty discourses, waiting upon them, & to make mirth & pleasure for them and the rest of the Company. Besides that he's taking care for the getting of some good *Canary, Rhenish & French* Wines, that those friends which come to wish the Bride and Bridegroom much joy, may be presented with a delicate glass of Wine. And principally, that those who are busie

about the Brides adornments, may taſt the Brides tears.

But really friends, if you come to taſt the Brides tears now, 't is a great while too ſoon: But if you'l have of the right and unfeigned ones, you muſt come ſome months hence.

O Bridegroom, who can but pitty you, that you muſt thus toil, moil, and run up and down, and the Jewel-ler and you have juſt now miſt one another; he is doubtleſs chatting with the Bride, and ſhewing of her ſome coſtly Jewels, which perhaps diſlike her ne'r a whit the worſe; and what ſhe has then a mind to, you'l find work enough to diſſwade her from, let them caſt what they will; for ſhe'l let you take care for that. And it is time enough to be conſidered on, when the weddings over. For now you have as much work as you can turn your ſelf to, in getting all your things in a readineſs from the Tailor, Semſtreſs, and Haberdaſher. And here-

herewith, alas, you'l find that oftentimes two or three weeks are consumed in this sort of busines, with the greatest slavery imaginable.

Yet, Mr. Bridegroom, for all these troubles, you may expect this reward, to have the pleasure of the best place in the Chancel, with a golden Tapistry laid before you, and for your honour the Organs playing. The going with a Coach to marry at a Country Town, has not half so much grace, and will not at all please the Bride: it is therefore requisite to consult with the friends on both sides, who shall be invited to the wedding, and who not. For it seldom happens, but there is one broil or another about it; and that's no sooner don, but there arises a new quarrel, to consider, how richly or frugally the Guests shall be treated; for they would come off with credit and little charge. To this is required the advice of a steward, because it is their daily work. And he for favour

vour of the Cook, Pasterer, and Poulterer (reaping oftentimes his own benefit by it) orders all things so liberally as he can make the people beleeve that is requisite. And the Bride thinks, the nobler it is, the better I like it, for I am but once the Bride. But this matter being dispatcht, there's another consideration to be taken in hand, to know how the Bride & Bridegrooms friends shall be plac'd at the Table, the ordering whereof, many times causes such great disputes, that if they had known it before, they would rather have kept no Wedding. In somuch that the Bridegroom and the Bride, with sighing, say to one another, alas, what a thick shel this marriage-nut hath, before one can come to the kernel of it. But Bridegroom to drive these damps out of your brain, there's no better remedy then to go along with your Bridemen to tast the Wedding wine; for there must be sure care taken that it may be of.

of a delicate taſt and reliſh; Becauſe that which was laid in before, was not ſo delicious as is required for ſuch a noble Wedding, where there will be ſo many curious taſters. Ha! viva! Look to 't Bride and Bridemaids, you may now expect a jolly Bridegroom and Bridemen, for the Wine-Merchant is ſuch a noble blade, that none of them all ſhall eſcape him, before they have drunk as many Glaſſes, as there are hoops upon the Wine-cask that they taſted of.

Adieu all care! the Wedding is at hand, who thinks now of any thing but ſuperfluity of mirth? Away with all theſe whining, pining Carpers, who are conſtantly talking & prating that the married eſtate brings nothing but care and ſorrow with it; here, to the contrary, they may ſee how all minds & intentions are knit together, to conſume and paſs away theſe daies with the moſt ſuperabounding pleaſures. Away with ſorrow. 'T is not

invited to be among the Wedding guests. Now there is nothing else to be thought on, but to help these Lovers that they may enjoy the kernel of the first pleasure of their marriage.

But really, there's poor Mally the maid, is almost dead with longing, and thinks her very heart in pieces, scarcely knowing when the first Wedding-night will be ended, that she might carry up some water to the young couple, and have a feeling of those liberal gifts that she shall receive from the Bridegroom and the Bride, for all her attendance, running and turmoiling. And her thoughts are, that no body has deserved it better, for by night and by day she waited upon them, and was very diligent and faithfull in conveyance of their Love-Letters; but all upon fair promises, having carried her self in the time of their wooing almost like a Bawd to the Bride; for which she never had in all the time but three gratuities from the Bridegroom; *And*

And now the Bride is in the bed,
The former promiſes are dead.

Make your ſelf merry amongſt the reſt of the Wedding gueſts, ſo far as is becoming you: who knows, but that ſome brave Gentlemans man, Coachman, or neighbors ſervant, may fall in love with you; for many times out of one Wedding comes another, and then you might come to be a woman of good faſhion. Udsbud Mally! then you would know, as well as your Miſtreſs, what delights are to be had in the firſt Wedding night. Then you would alſo know how to diſcourſe of the firſt Pleaſure of marriage, and with the Bride expect the ſecond.

THE SECOND PLEASURE.

The Woman goes to buy houshold-stuff. The unthankfulness of some of the Wedding-guests, and thankfulness of others.

WEll, young married people, how glad you must needs be, now the Wedding's over, and all that noise is at an end? You may now ly and sleep till the day be far spent! And not only rest your selves quietly; but, to your desires, in the Art of Love, shew one another the exercise and handling of Venus Weapons.

Now you may practise an hundred delicious things to please your appetites, & do as many Hocus Pocus tricks more. Now you may out-do *Aretin*, and

and all her light Companions, in all their ſeveral poſtures. Now you may rejoice in the ſweet remembrance, how ſumptuous that you were, in Apparel, meat and drink, and all other ornamenrs that my Lady *Bride*, and Madam *Spend-all*, firſt invented and brought in practice. Now you may tickle your fancies with the pleaſures that were uſed there, by danſing, maskerading, Fire-works, playing upon Inſtruments, ſinging, leaping, and all other ſort of gambals, that youth being back'd with Bacchus ſtrength uſes either for mirth or wantonneſs.

O how merry they were all of'em! And how deliciouſly were all the diſhes dreſſ'd and garniſht! What a credit this will be for the Cook and Steward! Indeed there was nothing upon the Table but it was Noble, and the Wine was commended by every one. They have all eaten gallantly, & drunk deliciouſly. Well, this

is now a pleasant remembrance.

And you, O young Woman, you are now both Wife and Mistris your self; you are now wrested out of the command of your grinning and snarling narrow-soul'd Tutors (those hellish Curmugions) now you may freely, without controul, do all what you have a mind to; and receive therewith the friendly imbracings, and kind salutes of your best beloved. Verily this must needs be a surpassing mirth.

And you, O new made husband, how tumble you now in wantonness! how willingly doth liberal Venus her self, open her fairest Orchard for you! Oh you have a pleasure, that those which never tried, can in the least comprehend.

Well, make good use of your time, and take the full scope of your desires, in the pleasant clasping and caressing of those tender limbs; for after some few daies, it may be hungry care will come

come and open the Curtains of your bed; and at a distance shew you what reckonings you are to expect from the Jeweller, Gold-smith, Silk-man, Linnen-Draper, Vinter, Cook and others.

But on the t'other side again, you shall have the pleasure to hear your young Wife every moment sweetly discoursing that she must go with her Sister and her Aunt to buy housholdstuf, Down-beds, dainty Plush and quilted Coverlets, with costly Hangings must be bought: And then she will read to you, her now made Husband, such a stately Register, that both your joy of heart, and jingling purse shall have a fellouw-feeling of it.

For your Sweetest speaks of large Venetian Looking-glasses, China-ware, Plush Chairs, Turkish Tapistry, Golden Leather, rich Pictures, a Service of Plate, a Sakerdan Press, an Ebbony Table, a curious Cabinet and child-bed Linnen cupboard,

board, several Webs for Napkins and Tabel-cloaths, fine and course linnen, Flanders laces, and a thousand other things must be bought, too long to be here related: For other things also that concern the furnishing of the house, they increase every day fresh in the brains of these loving and prudent Wives.

And when the Wife walks out, she must either have the Maid, or at least the Semstress, along with her; then neigbour John, that good carefull labourer, must follow them softly with his wheel-barrow, that the things, which are bought, may be carefully and immediately brought home.

And at all this, good Man, you must make no wry faces, but be pleasant and merry; for they are needfull in house-keeping, you cannot be without them; and that mony must alwaies be certainly ready, get it

it where you will. Then, saies the Wife, all this, at least, there must needs be, if we will have any people of fashion come into our house.

You know your Beloved hath also some Egs to fry, and did bring you a good Portion, though it consist in immovable Goods, as in Houses, Orchards, and Lands that be oftentimes in another Shire. Thither you may go then, with your Hony, twice a year, for the refreshing of your spirits, and taking your pleasure to receive the House-rents, fruits of the Orchards, and revenues of the Lands. Here every one salutes you with the name of Landlord; and, according to their Country fashion, indeavour to receive you with all civilities and kind entertainment. If, with their Hay-cart, you have a mind to go and look upon the Land, and to be a partici-

pator.

pator of those sort of pleasures; or to eat some new Curds, Cream, Gammon of Bacon, and ripe Fruits, all these things; in place of mony, shall be willingly and neatly disht up to you.

For here you'l meet with complaints, that by the War the Houses are burnt, the Orchards destroied, and the growth of the Fields spoiled! therefore it is not fit that you should trouble the poor people, but think, this is the use, custom, and fruits of War. If the Impositions and Taxes run high, the Country Farmer can't help that; you know that the War costs mony, and it must be given, or else we should loose all.

At such a time as this, your only mirth must be; that, through this gallant marriage, you are now Lord of so many acres of Land, so many Orchards, and of so many dainty Houses and Land. If your mony bags don't much increase by it at present, but rather

rather leſſen, that muſt no waies cloud your mirth. Would you trouble your ſelf at ſuch trivial things, you'd have work enough daily. We cannot have all things ſo to our minds in this World. For if you had your Wives Portion down in ready mony, you'd have been at a ſtand again, where, without danger, you ſhould have put it out at intereſt; fearing that they might play Bankrupt with it. Houſes and Lands are alwaies faſt, and they will pay well, when the War is done.

Therefore you muſt drive theſe vapors out of your head, and make your ſelf merry, with the hearing that your friends commend the entertainment they have had to the higheſt; and that two or three daies hence; the merry Bridemen and Bridemaids, with ſome of the neareſt acquaintance, will come *a la grandiſſimo* to give you thanks for all the reſpect & civilities that you have ſo liberally beſtowed upon them; which will be done

done then with such a friendly and affectionate heart, that it will be impossible for you, but you must invite them again to come and sup with you in the evening, and so make an addition to the former Pleasure; by which means pleasantness, mirth, and friendship, is planted and advanced among all the friends and acquaintance.

'T is true, you'l be sure to hear that there were some at the Wedding who were displeased, for not being entertained according to their expectations; and because their Uncle, a new married Niece, and some other friends were not seated in their right places; that Mrs. *Leonora* had a jolepate to wait upon her; and Mr. *Philip* an old *Beldam*; Mr. *Timothy* was forced to wait upon a young snotty-nose; and that Squire *Neefer* could not sit easily, and Mrs. *Betty*'s Gorget was rumbled; and that *Mal*, and *Peg Stones*, and *Dol Dirty-buttocks*, were

were almoſt throng'd in pieces; and could hardly yet any of the Sweetmeats; but you muſt not at all be troubled with this, for 't is a hard matter to pleaſe every body. 'T is enough that you have been at ſuch a vaſt charge, and preſented them with your Feaſt.

Truly, they ought to have been contented & thankfull to the higheſt degree; and what they are unſatisfied with needed not to have coſt you ſo much mony; for if you had left them all at home, you could have had no worſe reward, but a great deal leſs charge. Comfort your ſelf with this, that when it happens again, you will not buy ingratitude at ſo high a rate. 'Tis much better to invite them at two or three ſeveral times before hand, and entertain them with a merry glaſs of Wine, up and away; and then invite a ſmall company which are better to govern and ſatisfied.

'T is

'T is a great deal more pleasure for you, to see your Wives friends animate one another, to come, a fortnight after the Wedding, and surprize you; with shewing their thankfulness and satisfaction for the respect they have received from you; and that they are alwaies desirous to cultivate the friendship, by now and then coming to give you a visit.

This is here again a new joy! and as long as you keep open Table and Cellar for them, that reception will keep all discontent from growing among them. Yes, and it will please your Wife too, extraordinary well.

And by thus doing, you will not be subject to (as many other men are) your Wives maundring that you entertained her friends so hungrily and unhandsomly; but, for this, you shall be both by her, and her friends, beloved and commended in the highest degree: Yea it will be an incouragement that they in the same manner,

will

will entertain your friends like an Angel, and be alwaies seeking to keep a fair correspondence among them. So that in the Summer time, for an afternoons collation you'l see a Fruit-dish of Grapes, Nuts, and Peaches prepared for you; which cold Fruits must then be warm'd with a good glass of Wine. And in the Winter, to please your appetite, a dish of Pancakes, Fritters, or a barrel of Oisters; but none of these neither will be agreeable without a delicate glass of Wine. Oh quintessence of all mirth! Who could not but wish to get such Aunts, such Cousins, such Bridemen and Bridemaids in their marriage?

Therefore, if you meet with one or t'other of your Cousins, press him to go home with you, to refresh himself with a glass of Wine; O it will be extreamly pleasing to your Wife, and a double respect paid to him; because you bring him to a collation among other

other Cousins, and pretty Gentlewomen, where the knot of friendship and familiarity is renewed and faster twisted. And who knows, if you bring in a Batchelor, but there may perhaps arise a new marriage, which would be extraordinarily pleasing to your Wife; for there is nothing more agreeable to the female sex, then that they may be instrumental in helping their Bridemaids to husbands. And thus you will see a double increase of your Minions, and your Wife get more friends to accompany her, and drive fancies out of her head.

If your Wife should fail in her choice of household-stuff, and other sort of those appurtenances; doubt not but these will be prudent School-Mistresses for her, if she be unexperienc'd, to counsel and advise her to buy of the richest and newest mode, and what will be neatest, and where to be bought. Oh these are so skilfull in the art of ordring things, that you need

need not diſpute with your Wife about the hanging of a Picture above the Chimney-mantel! for they'l preſently ſay, there's nothing better in that place then large China diſhes; and that Bed-ſtead muſt be taken down, and another ſet up in the place with curious Curtains and Vallians, and Daſſles: And thus, they will deliver themſelves, like a Court full of wiſe Counſellors, for the pleaſure and inſtruction of your Beloved. Well, what could you wiſh for more? D'ye talk of mony? Piſh, that's ſtamp'd with hammers: give it liberally; the good Woman knows how and where to lay it out. If there be but little mony by the hand; be ſilent of that, it might happen to diſturb your Dear, and who knows wherein it may do her harm. It is not the faſhion that Women, eſpecially young married ones, ſhould take care for that. 'T is care enough for her, if ſhe contrive and conſider what muſt be

C bought

bought, and what things will be most suitable together. For this care is so great, that she never wakens in the night, but she thinks on't; yea it costs her many an hours rest; therefore ought not to be so lightly esteemed.

And now, O young husband, since you are come to the first step of the School to exercise your patience; it is not fit that you should already begin to grumble and talk how needfull it is to be sparing and thrifty; that Merchandising and trading is mighty dead; that monies is not to be got in; and that here and there reckonings and bills must be paid: O no! you must be silent, tho you should burst with discontent. For herewith, perhaps, the whole house would be out of order; and you might get for an answer, How! have I married then a pittifull poor Bridegroom? This would be sad to hear.

Go therefore to School by *Pythagoras* to learn silence; and to look upon

upon all things in the beginning with patience; to let your Wife do her own pleasure; and to mix hony with your words. Then you shall possess the quintessence of this Pleasure fully, and with joyfull steps enter upon the following.

THE THIRD PLEASURE.

The young couple walk daily abroad, being entertained and treated by all their friends and acquaintance; and then travell into the Country for their pleasure.

IF it be true that there is a Mountain of Mirth and pleasure for young married people to ascend unto, these are certainly the finest and smoothest conductors to it; that, because it was impossible to invite every one to the Wedding, this sweet *Venus* must be led abroad, and shewed to all her husbands friends & acquaintance: yea, all the World must see what a pretty couple they are, and how handsomly they agree together. To which end they trick and prick them-

themſelves daily up in their beſt apparel; garniſhing both the whole city and ſtreets with tatling and pratling; & ſtaring into the houſes of all their acquaintance to ſee whether they are looked at.

Do but ſee what a mighty and ſurpaſſing mirth! for they hardly can go ten or twelve furlongs but they conſtantly meet and are ſaluted by ſome of their acquaintance, wiſhing them all health, happineſs and proſperity; or by others invited to come in, and are treated according as occaſion preſents, wiſhing them alſo much joy in their married eſtate; Yea the great Bowl is rinſ'd, and about goes a brimmer to the good proſperity of the young couple. Well, thinks the young woman, what a vaſt difference there is between being a married woman & a maid! How every one receives & treats you! What reſpect and honour every one ſhews you! How you go daily in all your gallantry taking pleaſure!

And how every where you are fawn'd upon, imbrac'd and kist, receiving all manner of friendship! It is no wonder that all womankind are so desirous of marriage, and no sooner loose their first husbands, but they think immediately how to get a second? Oh, saith she, what a fulness of joy there is in the married estate, by Virginity! I resolve therefore to think also upon my Bridemaids, and to recommend them where ever there is occasion.

And this is the least yet, do but see! what for greater pleasure! for every foot you are invited out here & there to a new treat, that is oft-times as noble and as gallant as the Wedding was, and are plac'd alwaies at the upper end of the Table. If next day you be but a little drousie, or that the head akes; the husband knows a present remedy to settle the brain; and the first thing he saith, is, Come lets go to see Master or Mistris such a one, and walk out of Town to refresh our selves, or else go

and

and take the air upon the *Thames* with a Pair of Oars. Here is such a fresh mirth again that all *Lambeth*, the *Bankside*, and *Southwark* shakes with it. Oh that *Apollo* would but drive his horses slowly, that the day might be three hours longer; for it is too soon to depart, and that for fear of a pocky setting of the Watch. So that its every day Fair-time. Well, who is so blind that he cannot see the abundant pleasures of marriage?

To this again, no sooner has the young couple been some few daies at rest, and begin to see that the invitements decline; but the young woman talks of going out of Town together, and to take their pleasures in other Towns and Cities, first in the next adjacent places, and then to others that ly remoter; for, because she never was there, and having heard them commended to be such curious and neat places, she hath a great mind to see *Oxford* and *Cambridge*.

Yea, and then she saith, my dear, we must go also to see *York*, *Glocester* and *Bristol*, and take our pleasures those waies; for I have heard my Fathers Book-keeper often say, that it is very pleasant travelling thither, and all things very cheap. And when he began to relate any thing of Kent, and its multiplicity of fruit, my very heart leapt up for joy; thinking to my self, as soon as I am married, I will immediately be pressing my husband that we may go thither; because it seem'd to me almost incredible. And then again he would sometimes relate of *Herefordshire* what delicious Syder and Perry is made there, which I am a great lover of; truly Hony, we must needs go that way once, that I may say I have satiated my self with it, at the Fountain-head. Ah, my dearest, let us go thither next week.

It is most certain that the Goodman hath no mind at all to be thus much longer out of his house, & from his

his vocation; by reason he is already so much behind hand with his loss of time in Wooing, Wedding, Feasting and taking pleasure; but alas, let him say what he will, he cannot dissuade her from it.

You may as soon retort the wind,
As make a woman change her mind.

In the night she dreams on't, and by day she talks on't, and alwaies concludes this to be her certain rule. The first year won't come again. If „ we don't take some pleasure now, „ when shall we do it! Oh, my Dear, „ a year hence we may have a child, „ then it's impossible for me to go any „ where, but I shall be tied like a Dog „ to a chain: And truly, why should „ not we do it as well as they & they „ did; for they were out a month or „ two, and took their pleasures to the „ purpose: my Mother, or my Cousin „ will look to our house; come let us go „

„ also out of Town! For the first year „ will not come again.

Well, what shall the good man do? if he will have quietness with his wife, he must let her have her will, or else she will be daily tormenting of him. And to give her harsh language, he can't do that, for he loves her too well. His father also taught him this saying, for a marriage lesson, *Have a care of making the first difference.* If he speak unkindly to her, his Love might be angry, and then that would occasion the first difference, which he by no means willingly would be guilty of; for then these Pleasures would not have their full swing.

Well, away they go now out of Town: But, uds lid, what a weighty trunk they send the Porter with to the Carriers! For they take all their best apparel with them, that their friends in the Country, may see all their bravery. And besides all this, there must be a riding Gown, and some other new

new accoutrements made for the journy, or else it would have no grace.

Now then, away they go, every one wishing them all health and prosperity upon their journy, & so do I.

But see! they are hardly ridden ten mile out of Town, before the young woman begins to be so ill with the horses jolting, that she thinks the World turns topsie-turvy with her. Oh she's so ill, that she fears she shall vomit her very heart up: Then down lights her husband, to take her of, and hold her head, and is in such a peck of troubles, that he knows not which way to turn or wind himself. Wishing that he might give all that he's worth in the World to be at a good Inn. And she poor creature falling into a swoon, makes him look as if he had bepist himself, & though he sighs and laments excessively she hears him not; which occasions him such an extremity of grief that he's

ready to tear the hair off of his head. But the quamishnes of her stomack beginning to decline, she recovers; and rising, they walk for a little space softly forwards; the good man thinking with himself how he shall do to get his dearly beloved to an Inn, that she may there rest her distempered body. And then getting her up again, they ride very softly forwards, to get to the end of their journy.

Truly, I must confess, that amongst the rest of the Pleasures of marriage, this is but a very sorry one. But stay a little, yonder me thinks I see the Steeple, we shall be there presently; the little trouble and grief you have had, will make the salutations you receive, and the scituation of the place seem so much the pleasanter. And these dainty green Meadows will be a delicate refreshment. You'l find your stomack not only sharpned, but also curiously cleansed of all sorts of filthy

filthy and slimy humours. And you light not sooner from your horse then your appetite is ready to entertain what ever comes before you; The good Man in the mean while is contriving at whose house he shall first whet his knife, and where he thinks his poor wearied wife will receive the best entertainment and caresses, to drive out of her imaginations the troubles and wearisomness of her journy; which will the easier be dispensed with, when she walks out to see the rarities of the place, and to visit your Cousins and relations. And so much the more, because every one will be wishing the new married couple much joy, receiving them kindly, and doing them all manner of pleasures and civilities: which I assure you is no small matter of mirth.

But every thing must have an end. It is therefore now very meet to speak of removing to some other City. But

let the husband say what he will of travelling by horseback, she is struck on that ear with an incurable deafness.

They must have a Coach to themselves, and the great Trunk must go along with them, or else the whole journy would have no grace. Neither would it be respect enough for them in the presence of so many good friends and acquaintance, unless the Coach come to take them up at the dore. And it must be done to. Here now one is returning thanks for th'entertainment, and the other for their kind visit, and withall wish the young couple that all content, pleasure, and delight may further attend them upon their journy, &c. Then it is Drive on Coachman, and away fly the poor jades through the streets, striking fire out of the liveless stones, as if Pluto just at the same time were upon the flight with his Proserpina through the City.

But, O new married couple, what price

price do you little think this mirth will ſtand you at? What man is there in the World, that hath ever an eye in his head, but muſt needs ſee, that if he tarry out long, this muſt be the ready way to Brokers-Hall. Yet nevertheleſs I confeſs you muſt do it, if you intend to have any peace or quietneſs with your new wife.

Theſe are the firſt fruits and pleaſures of marriage, therefore you muſt not ſo much as conſider, nay hardly think, of being ſo long from home, though in the mean while all things there is going alſo the ready way to deſtruction; for it is the faſhion, at ſuch times, that maid, man, and all that are in your ſervice, to act their own parts; and ſo merry they are that they poſſeſs their own freedom, and keep open Table, that the whole neighbourhood hears their laughter. Ask the neighbours when you come home, and you will quickly hear, that by them was no thought of care or for-

sorrow; but that they have plaied, ranted and domineer'd so that the whole neighbourhood rung with it; and how they have played their parts either with some dried Baker, prick-louse Tailor, or smoaky Smith, they themselves know best.

Down goes the spit to the fire; the pudding pan prepared; and if there be either Wine, Beer or any thing else wanting; though the Cellar be lockt; yet, by one means or another, they find out such pretty devices to juggle the Wine out of the Cask, nay and Suger to boot too; that their inventions surpass all the stratagems that are quoted by the Author of the English Rogue; of which I could insert a vast number, but fear that it would occasion an ill example to the unlearned in that study. Howsoever they that have kept house long, and had both men & maid-servants, have undoubtedly found both the truth and experience hereof sufficiently. And how

how many maids, in this manner, have been eased of that heavy burther of their maidenheads, is well known to the whole World.

These are also some of the first fruits and delights of marriage; but if they were of the greatest sort, they might be esteemed and approved of to be curable, or a remedy found for prevention. Yet let them be of what state and condition they will, every one feels the damage and inconvenience thereof, ten times more then it is outwardly visible unto him, or can comprehend. For if you saw it you would by one or other means shun or prevent it. But now, let it be who it will, whether Counsellor, Doctor, Merchant, or Shopkeeper, the one neglects his Clients Suit, the other his Patients, the third his Negotiation & Trade, and the fourth his Customers; none of them all oft-times knowing from whence it arises that their first

first years gain is so inconsiderable. For above the continual running on of house-rent, the neglect and unnecessary expensive charge of servants; you consume your self also much mony in travelling and pleasnre; besides the peril and uneasiness that you suffer to please and complaite your new married Mistris. O miserable pleasure!

But you will be sure to find the greatest calamity of this delight, as soon as you return home again; if you only observe the motions of your wife, for whose pleasure and felicity you have been so long from home. Alas she is so wearied and tired with tumbling and travelling up & down, that she complains as if her back were broke, and it is impossible for her to rise before it is about dinner time; nay and then neither hardly unless she hear that there is something prepared suitable to her appetite. If any thing either at noon or night is to be

pre-

prepared and made ready, the husband must take care and give order for the doing of it; the good woman being yet so weary, that she cannot settle her self to it; yea it is too much for her to walk about her chamber, her very joints being as it were dislocated with the troublesomness of the journy.

In the mean while the servants they ly simpring, giggling, and laughing at one another, doing just what they list; and wishing that their Mistris might be alwaies in that temper, then they were sure to have the more freedom to themselves: the which, though done by stealth, they make as bad as may be: and yet hardly any man, tho he had the eyes of *Argolus* can atrrap them; for if by chance you should perceive any thing, they will find one excuse or another to delude you, and look as demure as a dog in a halter, whereby the good man is easily pacified and satisfied for that time.

And

And these things are more predominant, when there is a cunning slut of a Maid, that knows but how to serve and flatter her Mistris well, getting her by that means upon her side: in such cases you'l generally see two maids where one might serve, or else a Chair-woman; the one to do all the course work, the other to run of errands and lend a helping hand (if she hath a mind to it) that all things may the sooner be set in order; & she then with her Mistris may go a gadding.

And because Peggy & her Mistris, do in this manner, as it were, like a Jack in a box, jump into each others humour, the good woman may take her rest the better; for she hath caretakers enough about the house. And if the husband, coming from the Change or other important affair, seems to be any waies discontented, that all things lies stragling about the house, & are not set in order, presently crafty Peggy finds a fit expedient for it

it with complaining that her Mistris hath had such an insufferable pain in her head and in her belly, that it was beyond imagination; & also she could get no ease for her, unless she had prepared her some butter'd Ale, and a little mul'd Sack; and this is the reason why all things were not so ready as they ought to have been.

Herewith the good mans mouth is stopt. If he begins afterwards to speak with his wife concerning th'unnecessary Chair-women; his answer is, prithee Sweetheart, don't you trouble your self with those things, leave that to me, I'l manage that to the best advantage; men have no understanding about house-keeping, & it is most proper for a woman to have the governance of her Maids. And also Sweetheart, if there be now and then occasion for a semstress or a Chairwoman, they are things of so small importance, that they are not worth the speaking of.

Now,

Now, if he will have peace and quietness at home, this reply must give him full satisfaction; and tho he be never so patient, viewing all things at a distance; yet the maids behind his back, that their Mistris may more then over-hear it, dare call him, a Tom *Peep in the pot*, or *Goodman busie-body*. And before dinner is fully done, he must hear *Peg* asking her Mistris; Mistris, wont you please forsooth, to go by and by and give Mistris *Moody* a visit, or discourse a little with Madam Elenor? As long as you have nothing to do, what need you ty your self to any thing? Pray tell her that story that the North Country Gentleman related, which you laught at yesterday so heartily. Madam *Elenor* will admire at it. And I'm sure she hath something that she will relate unto you. Herewith the good Mistris begins to get a drift, and away she goes with *Peg* out of dores. Let it go then as it will with the house keeping.

This

This is also no small pleasure, when the Mistris and the Maid alwaies agree so lovingly together! then the husband need not go any more out of Town to please his wives fancy; for she can now find pleasure enough by her old acquaintance sweet Mistris *Moody*, and courteous Madam *Elenor*.

Do but see now, O Lovers, what multiplicity of roses, and thistles there are in the very Porch of the Wilderness of Marriage; you may think then what the middle and end must be.

THE FOURTH PLEASURE.

The Wife goes a prating by her Neighbours; complaining of her barrenness, and takes Physick for it.

VErily it is a great pleasure for the new married couple, that they have been up and down taking their pleasure, and have been feasted by all their acquaintance.

Now they have travelled from place to place, and taken a full view of what friends and relations each other hath; and seen also the great difference there is in the ornaments, neatness, manners and deportments of each place, and also how pleasant the *Hills*, *Dales* and *Meadows* lie, with their silver streaming Brooks; but most particularly, how neatly and compleatly one

one may, for their mony, be treated. Yet come finally to a consideration within themselves of the weakness and vanity of this pleasure; perceiving that all those who possess it, at last conclude it burthensom, and have a longing desire to be at home again in a frugal management of housekeeping at their own Tables.

Verily, this is that happy hour of pleasure that the new married man hath been long seeking for; to the end he might once be freed from all such idle expences, and be again carefully looking after his affairs and vocation. Now he begins to hope that all things will come into a handsom posture; also not doubting, but that his wife will, having had her full swing and hearts content of treats and all other sorts of pleasures, begin like a House-Wife, to order her self to take some care for the concerns of the Family, which indeed oft-times falls out so, to the great joy, profit, and tranquility

of the good man.

But can it be possible that this sweet pleasure should be so disht up, without some bitter sauce of discontent? O kind Husband, if you will beleeve that, then you may well think the whole state and term of your marriage to be a Paradice upon earth; and that you have already got footing in the high-way to all fullness of pleasures and contentments: Yet tarry a few daies, and then experience will give you a better understanding of further pleasures.

For the new Wife is no sooner come to be at quiet; but she begins to complain, that she can hardly addict her self to this new way of life; that it appears very strange and odly to her to converse with a new Maid, by reason she must be telling her this thing, and commanding her the t'other; and have a regard of all what she does, which are things that she before never used to trouble her self with;

with; and that it is such a trouble to her to be out of her Parents house, in a strange dwelling place: Nay, this oft-times surges so high, that the good man hath his hands full of work to comfort her, and to talk these foolish fancies out of her noddle; and verily, unless he can bridle her frivolous humour with some pleasant discourses, and dry up her tears with no small number of kisses; oh then he'l be sadly put to't. And if this all falls out well, before six weeks are at an end, there'l appear another dark cloud again, to eclipse this splendant Sunshine.

For behold, within a very small time the good woman begins to scrape acquaintance, and get some familiarity with her neighbours, which increaseth from day to day more and more; nay oftentimes it comes to that height, she's better to be found among her neighbours, then at home in her own family. Here she sees Mistris

Wanton playing with her child that is a very pretty Babe. There she sees Mistres *Breedwell* making ready her Child-bed linnens and getting of her Clouts together. Yonder Mistris *Maudlen* complains that she doth not prove with child; & then Mistres *Young-at-it* brags how nearly she could reckon from the very bed-side. Oh then she thinks I have been married this three months, and know nothing at all of these things; it is with me still as if I were yet a maid: What certainly should be the reason thereof?

This is the first occasion that begets a great disturbance in the brain-pan and imagination; and wo be to the good man, if he doth not understand his Py-work well! Then to the end she may hear. The better how things goes; she inquires very earnestly amongst her acquaintance what caresses they receive from their husbands; and most shamlesly relates what hath passed between her and her

Her husband, twixt the curtains, or under the Rose; which she doth to that purpose, that she may hear whether her husband understands his work well, and whether he doth it well, and oft enough; and also whether he be fully fit for the employ, &c. for the verification whereof the Councel of women bring so many compleat relations, that it is a shame to think, much more to speak of them.

Whosoever she speaks with every one pities her, and gives her their advice: And the best sort will at the least say to her, I would oftentimes treat my husband with such sort of spices as were good for my self, *viz.* Oisters, Egs, Coxcombs, sweet breads, Lam-stones, Caveer, &c. and counsell him every morning to go to the Coffe-house and drink some Chocolate; & above all things advise him to desist from Tabacco and drying things, or any other things that are too cooling for the kidneys.

then I would many times my self by dallying with him, and some other pretty Wanton postures, try to provoke him to it; whereby he should surely know that it was neither your coolness, nor want of desire that might be blamed in it; but rather alwaies confess, that you had sufficiently done your indeavour.

Who will doubt but that she puts this advice, in operation? O happy man, who art now every foot treated with some new sorts of kickshaws at your Table; and have free leave to frequent the Coffy-house, which other women grumble and mumble at. And besides all this, you find that your dearest embraceth you as if you were an Angel, and shews you a thousand other friendly entertainments that are beyond imagination to express: it is alwaies in the evening, my Dear come to bed: and in the morning, pray Love ly a little longer. These are most certainly very great pleasures.

But

But if the Woman marks that this helps not, and that all things remain in the old posture, then she begins to mump and maunder at her husband; vaunting much of her own fitness, and not a little suspecting her husbands; oftentimes calling him a Fumbler, a dry-boots, and a good man Do-little, &c.

This makes him look as if he had beshit himself. And though he never so much indeavours to vindicate himself; and also to perswade her from the reasons and examples given by several learned Doctors; Culpepper; the Queens Midwife; and some others of his friends and acquaintance that he demonstrates unto her; it is all but wind. She still complains, I must have a Child, or else I shall run distracted.

And this manner of franticknes hath so vehemently struck into her brains, that the very house seems to burn over her head: Insomuch that

she's no sooner risen from her bed or from the Table, but immedialy she goeth a gadding amongst the neighbours; and takes other peoples children in her arms, kissing and slabbring of them so unmeasurably, as if she would almost devour them with love; nay she useth more simple and childish actions with them, then ever own mothers have done. By which means the children have many times as great an affection for their neighbour, as they have for their own Father and Mother.

This gadding out of dores doth undoubtedly a little trouble her husband: But when he begins to consider, that his wife by this means knows how to handle, and make much of children; and then again, that she thus beforehand learns it for nothing; it must of necessity be no less then a great pleasure for him. And so much the more, whilest she is pratling with her neighbour, and playing with her child;

child; he is freed from the nurſe of hearing her ſighs and complaints to have a child. For ſhe's no ſooner within the dores, but ſhe talks of her neighbours child, and wiſhes with the loſs of all that ſhes world in the World that ſhe had ſuch a one too; which continues alwaies ſo long, that finally ſhe burſts out into the like former frenzy againſt her huſband: ſee there I muſt have a child alſo, or elſe I ſhall run diſtracted.

But what remedy? which way he turns or winds himſelf, he finds no means or way how to pacifie his wife. And therefore thinks it beſt himſelf to take th'advice of Doctor, and moſt eſpecially with that French Doctor, who is ſo renowned for his ſkill of making many men and women that before were barren and unfruitfull to conceive children: Inſomuch that they do now every year preciſely bear a young ſon, or a

daughter, yea sometimes two at a time. It is thereby also very necessary that the good woman her self consult with some experienced Midwives, and old Doctresses; to the end, that those distempers which are the occasion of barrenness, might be the better removed and taken away.

To this end there are almost as many Boxes and Gally-pots brought together, as would near upon furnish an Apothecaries shop: Then to work they go with smearing, anointing, chafing, infusing, wherewith (as they term it) the good woman is to be made fresh and fit; but they make the bed and whole house so full of stink and vapours, that it may be said they rather stop the good and wholesom pores and other parts of the body; then to open those that were stopt and caused Distempers.

But in the conclusion we find it to be both fruitless and miserable, where the good woman goes to seek it by th'A-

th'Apothecary; even as her husband doth out of the Oister and Eg-shels.

And if this will not do now; where shall the poor man hide his head next? What shall he do more to please and pacifie her? He thinks upon all the ways and means possible to entertain her to content. If she will have costly things, he will buy them for her; and and dissimulately saith that all what she practiseth for her content, is his only pleasure and delight: yea, although her pride and ambition many times in several things flies too high, and oft-times also doth not happen to be very suitable with the constitution of the cash; he dares in no wise contradict her, for he fears that she will presently be at variance with him again: And thinks in the interim, whilest her mind hangs upon these things, she forgets her maunding and mumbling for a child. Still hoping that there will come one happy night, that may crown his earnest desires with

fructivity; this it is that makes him that he dares not anger her or give her a sour countenance; fearing that if she might have conceived, that would be the means of turning the tide.

To be short, it is his only and greatest delight to see that his wife is well satisfied and receiveth her content and pleasure; which is very hard to be practised, so long as she is not with child.

But ô what a joy there will be if he may be but once so happy as to hit that mark! How will the first day of her reckoning to ly in stand in his Almanack, as if it were printed with a red Letter! Well young people, be contented; Long look'd for comes at last to the satisfaction of the Master.

THE

THE FIFTH PLEASURE.

The young Woman proves with Child, and longs.

THe old Proverb tels us, that after the sour comes the sweet; and I find, jolly couple, that it is so with you also; for I hear finally that your wife is big with child: Well what a Pleasure is that! Certainly, now you see that all your Doctoring and medicining hath been to some purpose, and now you feel also that all herbs were made for some good effects.

How happy a thing it is that you have made use of a learned Doctor, and an experienced *Midwife. Now is the only time to be very carefull, for fear the least accident might turn the side with the young woman, and so

so she get a mischance, or some other sad mishap; and a mischance is worse for her then a true Childbearing; for that weakens nature abundantly, and oftentimes brings with it several sad consequences, & Thus the women talk.

But you, ô noble Champion, who have behaved your self so gallantly; continne now to reap the further conquests of your honour. Look not at any small matters; and most especially if you hope or desire to gain the principal prize of your pleasure. For be assured, that you must suffer much, and see through a perspective glass all things at a distance; because you never before saw your wife in so gallant a state and condition as she now is in; and therefore you must cherish and preserve her much more then formerly you have done. If you hear her often grunt and groan, mumble and chide, either with the men or maid-servants; nay, thongh it were with your

your own ſelf, you muſt paſs it by, not concerning your ſelf at it; and imagine that you do it for the reſpect you bear your wife, but not by conſtraint; for it is common with big-bellied women to do ſo.

But moſt eſpecially rejoice in your ſelf, if this grunting and groaning happen only by day time; becauſe then you may ſomtimes avoid it, or divertiſe your ſelf with other company. Yet by night generally ſhall the good woman be worſt of all? therefore be ſure to provide your ſelf well with pure Aniſeed, Clove, Cniamon-waters, and good ſack, that you may therewith be ready to ſtrengthen and aſſiſt her. For it will often happen that when you are in your beſt and firſt Sleep, that your deareſt wil waken you and complain of pain at her heart, of dizzineſs and great faintneſs; then all what is in the houſe muſt be ſtirring, and you your ſelf alſo, thongh it be never ſo cold, out

of

to the bed you must with all the speed possible. Comfort your self herewith, that this was one of the pleasures which you got with your wife, though it was not set down in the Contract of marriage.

Now for this again you alwaies receive the honour, that when you are invited with her to any place at a treat, the best that is upon the Table shall be presented to the big-bellied woman: Yea if she long or have a desire to any thing; immediately every one that observes it, are ready to serve her with it; nay, though there were never so little in the Dish, her longing must be fully satisfied, if no body else should so much as tast of it. And by this means oftentimes the good woman is so ill and disturbed, that she is forced to rise from the Table, and falls from one faintness into another; which for civilities sake, is then baptized, that she hath sat too high or been throng'd, or that the room being so

ſo full, the breath of the people offended her.

And though ſhe perceives that this every foot makes her ſo ill; yet for the moſt part ſhe will be ſo choice and ſo dainty, that ſhe ſeldom knows her ſelf what ſhe will eat or hath a mind to; but generally it tends to ſome thing or other that is delicate: Upon this manner again, according to the former cuſtom, ſhe tumbles it in till ſhe is ſick with it; and if any one looks but very wiſhly at her; immediately another ſaies to them; ſhe muſt eat for two, nay perhaps for three.

And not only that in this manner ſhe grows ſo delicate and glutto-nous; but is thereby ſo eaſie and lazy, that ſhe can hardly longer indure her ſowing cuſhion upon her lap. Alſo ſitting is not good for her, for fear the child thereby might receive ſome hindrance and an heartfufullneſs. Therefore ſhe muſt often walk abroad; and to

that

that end an occasion is found to go every day a partling and gossiping then to this and then to another place; in the mean while leaving her husband without a wife, and the family without a mistris.

Then in conclusion this falls also burthensom to her, (as it is generally with all things that are too frequently used) then she will be for spurring you up to walk abroad with her, that she may get all sorts of fruits and other fopperies that the season of the y ear affords; and at the first baiting-place she's for some Cream with sugar, stewd prunes, and a bottle of sider or perry; and thus abroad to spend much, and at home neglect more.

If she have then gone somthing far, she is so excessive weary with it, that if her life must ly at stake, she cannot set one foot further. Herewith is the poor man absolutely put to a stand: ride she may not, or all the fat would be in the fire; and they are so deep in the

the Country that there is sometimes neither Coach nor boat to be had.

And if you should happen to be where a River is, there's never a boat to be had; but if there should be one, then you must be subject to humour the churlish Ferry man, who seeing the necessity of the occasion, and that you are able to pay for it, will have what price he pleases. And sometimes again you are timorous your self to hazard it, because many women are very fearfull upon the water.

But indeed, if by this an happy occasion, a good expedient may be found to please your dearly beloved, it is no small joy. Well then make your self jocund herewith, to the end that other troubles may not so much molest and disturb you.

You may also be very well assured, that your wife no sooner comes to be a little big-bellied, but she receives the priviledge to have all what she hath a mind to & that is called Long-

ing.

ing. And what husband can be so stern or barbarous that he will deny his wife at such a time what she longs for? especially if it be a true love of a woman, you must never hinder her of her longing; for then certainly the child would have some hindrance by it.

For as much then as is necessary that you alwaies seek to avoid and prevent this, you must observe, that all women when they are with child, do fall commonly from one longing to another: And then the providing and buying of that for them, must be as great a pleasure to you as it is to them in the receiving and use of it; and that not alone for theirs, but your childs sake also. And truly he that will or cannot suit himself to this humour, will be very unhappy, because he shall not then receive the full scope and freedom of this pleasure.

It is also most certain that these long-

longing desires doth transport their imaginations from one finical thing to another: If it be in the summer, then they long for China Oranges, Sivil Lemmons, the largest Asparagus, Strawberries with wine and sugar, Cherries of all sorts, and in like manner of Plums, and these they must have their fill of: And then when they have gotten through the continuance their full satisfaction thereof; then be assured they begin to long for some great Peaches and Apricocks; and though they be never so scarce and dear, yet the woman must not lose her longing, for the child might get a blemish by it.

If then Apples and Pears begin to grow ripe, you have the same tune to sing again; for she is possessed with a new longing desire as bad, as if it were a Quotidian Ague in all the joints of her body; and whatsoever comes new to her sight, creates in her

her a fresh longing. If she gets one hour curious Catherine Pears, Pippins, or Russetings, the next she hath a mind to Filberds; and then an hour or two later Wall-nuts and Grapes fall into her thoughts; do what you will there's no help for it, her longing must be satisfied, let it go as it will, or cost what it will.

And this her longing leads her from one thing to another, of all what the richness of the summer, or liberality of the harvest, out of their superfluities pour down upon us. Insomuch that the good man wishes a thousand times over that he might once be rid of these terrible charges and great expence.

But alas what helps it? there's no season of the year but gives us some or other new fruits that the women have alwaies a new longing desire to. And if it be in the Winter, then they long for juicy Pomgranates, new Wine upon the must, with Chesnuts; then

then for Colcheſter Oiſters; then again for Pancakes and Fritters; and indeed for a thouſand ſeveral ſorts of ſuch toys and fancies as do but appear before their longing imaginations. And oftentimes it is no real longing, for that were then pardonable, but a liquoriſh delicate deſire that they are ſick of; as may be ſeen by thoſe who ſimply imagine themſelves to be with child, are alwaies talking of this and t' other dainty that they long after. And that which is worſt of all, is that both they and thoſe that are really with child, long commonly for that which is ſcarceſt and hardeſt to be gotten: Yea in the very middle of winter they oftentimes long to have a Green-gooſe or young Chickens; which in ſome places are very hard to be got, and not without paying ex exceſſive dear for them.

This longing being ſo ſatisfied; immediately ariſes another, and nothing will ſerve Meats, and ſeveral ſorts

sorts of Comfits. Yea how often happens it, though it rain, snow, and is very slippery, that both the husband and the maid, if never so dark and late in the night, must trot out and fetch candied Ginger, dried Pears, Gnigerbread, or some such sort of liquorish thing. And what is to be imagined, that can be cried about in the streets by day time, but her longing before hath an appetite prepared for it?

Yea through an excessive eating of raw fruits, and feeding upon multiplicities of sweet-meats; to fulfill their longing; it turns to a griping of the guts and overflowing of the Gall, which again occasion Cholick, & manytimes other lamentable pains. Here is is then another new work. There the Doctor must be presently fetcht, and according to what he pleases to order, either a Glister must be set, or some other Physick taken for it.

But by reason these things are not so

so pleasant to the good woman as the foregoing liquorish delicacies; she thinks it best that the Midwife be sent for, because she hath a great deal better knowledge touching the infirmities of women then the Doctors: Then she is fetcht, and having done the first part of her office, she gives her good comfort; and orders her to take only some of the best white Wine, simper'd up with a little Orange-peel, well sweetned with sugar, and so warm drunk up; and then anoint your self here, and you know where, with this salve; and for medicines [that are most to be found in Confectionres or Pasterers shops] you must be sure to make use of those, then your pain will quickly lessen. You must not neglect also ofttimes to eat a piece of bread and butter with either Caroway or Aniseed Comfits; use also Cinnamon; the first expels wind, and the second strengthens the heart; and they are both good for the woman and

the child. Be sure also to drink every morning and every evening a glass of the best sack, for that strengthens the fruit of the womb, and occasions you a good quickness, &c.

Who will doubt, but that she obeys the orders of the Midwife, much better then that of the Doctors. And verily there is also a great deal of difference in the suffering, of such or uneasie fumbling at the back part; or the receiving of such pleasant and acceptable ingredients. And so much the more, when she begins to remember that Doctor Drink-fast used to tell her, that Medicins never make so good an operation, when they are at any time taken against the appetite, or with an antipathy, by the Patient.

Thus you may see, approaching Father, how you are now climb'd up to a higher step of glory: Your manly deeds, make your name renowned; and your joy is so much augmented that your wife looks alwaies merrily and

and pleaſantly upon you, for giving her content; and ſhe now alſo ſalutes you with the moſt ſweeteſt and kindeſt names imaginable; you muſt alſo now be her gueſt upon all ſorts of Summer and Winter fruits, & a thouſand other kinds of liquoriſh and moſt acceptable dainties. Inſomuch that although you did not come into the ſtreets in ſix months, you may by the humour and actions of your wife know perfectly when Strawberries, Cherries, Apples, Pears, Nuts & Grapes, are in ſeaſon. And there is no geater pleaſure for your beſt beloved, then that ſhe ſees you eat as heartily of them as ſhe her ſelf doth.

Confeſs then unfeignedly, from the very bottom of your heart; are not theſe great Pleaſures of marriage? And be joyfull; for this is only a beginning, the beſt comes at laſt. Know likewiſe, that this is but as a fore-runner of the ſixth Pleaſure, and will both touch you at heart, and tickle your purſe

much better: Yea, inſomuch that the experience thereof will ſhew you that there is a whole mountain of pleaſures to be found in the bands of Wedlock. Whereby I fear, that you will, perhaps, make a lamentable complaint, of your no ſooner arriving at this hrppineſs.

But comfort your ſelf herewith; that the medicaments of the Doctor and Midwife, perhaps have done ſuch a wiſhed for operation, that you thereby may obtain many Sons and Daughters, which you may then timely admoniſh and inſtruct to that duty, ſo long by your ſelf neglected, and in a manner too late to repent of.

Doubt not, but aſſuredly beleeve, that now you are once gotten into the right road, you may eaſily every year ſee a renovation of this unſpeakable pleaſure; and beholding your wife oftentimes in this ſtate; in like mannner you perceive that not only your name and fame is ſpread abroad,

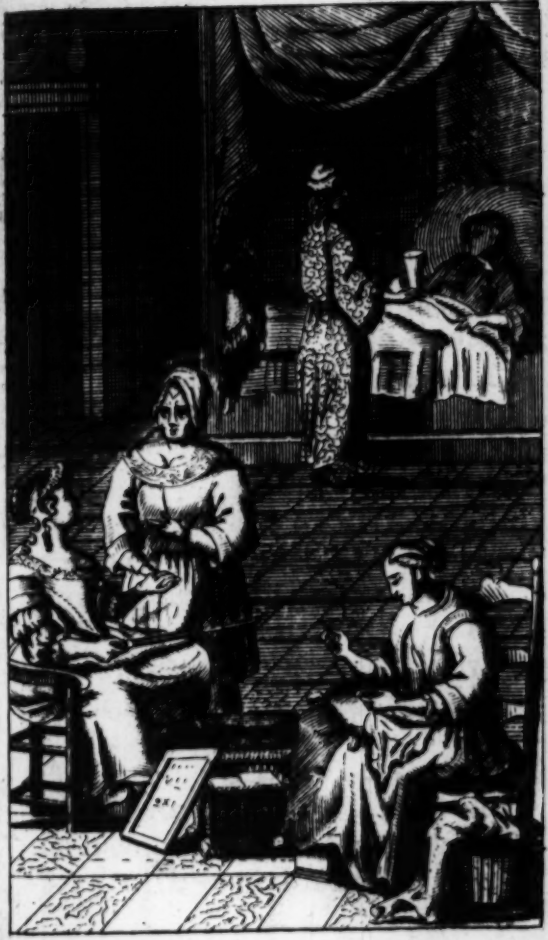
but

but your generation alſo grow formidable. And this all to the glory of your relations, and joy of your dearly Beloved.

THE SIXTH PLEASURE.

Care is taking for the Child and Child-bed linnen; and to provide a Mid-wife and Nurse.

IN good truth it is very pleasant to see how the good womans Apron from day to day, how longer the more it rises; now all the World may plainly see you have behaved your self like a man, and every one acknowledge that you are both good for the sport. Verily this is a great pleasure! And it increases abundantly, when your wife comes to be so near her reckoning, that she feels her self quick, and begins to provide and take care for the Childs and Child-bed linnen. Then you need not fear the turning of the tide, or that a mischance will



will happen; wherewith all people, seeing no other issue, laugh and scoff unmeasurably; and think that the Midwife hath been greased in the fist, (as it oftentimes happens) because she should say, that it was a full created child, and no collection of ill humors, or a wind-egg.

And the greatest joy is, that you have now so hoisted your top-sail, that your wife cannot any more call you a *Dry-boots*, or a *John Cannot*; which were for you such disrespectfull names, and yet for quietness sake you were forced to smother them in your breast, because you could have no witnesse for your vindication.

You are now so far exalted, that you will very speedily be saluted with the name of; *Dad* & *Pappa* which is as pleasing and acceptable for you now, as the name of *Bridegroom* was before.

O how happy you are! & what pleasures doth the married estate provide for you! how glad must your wife be

now! how ſtrictly ſhe reckons the months, nay the very weeks and days! O what an unexpreſſible love hath ſhe for you now! and with what imbraces and kiſſes ſhe entertains you, becauſe you have furniſh'd her ſhop ſo well? Now you may perceive that the procreating of children, makes the band of wedlock much ſtronger, and increaſeth the affections.

Now were it well time, that by death either of the good woman or the Child, that you did, by a will, ſeek the mortification of the diſadvantagious Contract of marriage; and by that means get all there is to your ſelf, in place of going back to her friends and relations; But, alas, ſhe hath ſo much in her head at preſent, that there is no ſpeaking to her about it, without bing a great trouble to her: beſides her ſences cannot now bear it therefore you muſt let it alone till another time.

Do you your ſelf but obſerve, & you'l quickly

quickly ſee that a lying-in requireth ſo much trimming, that ſhe hath really care enough upon her! the Child-bed linnen alone, is a thing that would make ones head full of dizzineſs, it conſiſts of ſo many ſorts of knick-knacks; I will not ſo much as name all the other jinkombobs that are dependances to it. Therefore, ought you to be ſo compaſſionate with her, as not to ſpeak to her about any other thing; for all her mind and ſences are ſo imploied upon that ſubject, that ſhe can think upon nothing elſe but her down-lying. Hear but deliberately to all her lying-in, and of what belongs to it. Tis no wonder neither for there is not one of her acquaintance comes to her, either woman or maid, but they preſently aſk her, Well, Miſtris, when do you reckon? And that is a Text then, ſo full of matter that there is oftentimes three or four hours preacht upon it, before any of the Auditors be weary,

O that all Ministers were so happy, as to have alwaies such earnest and serious hearers. In the mean while there is no body happier than the maids, for they are then free from being the Town-talk; for at other times, the first word is, How do you like your maid? which is another Text that the women generally preach out of, and make longest sermons in.

But methinks, I should happen to fall here from the Mistris upon the Maid.

To go forward then. See how serious your dearest is, with *Jane* the Semstress, contriving how much linnen she must buy to make all her Child-bed linnen as it ought to be! how diligently she measures the Beds, Bellibands, Navel-clouts, shirts, and all other trincom, trancoms! and she keeps as exact an account of the ells, half ells, quarters, and lesser measures, as if she had gone seven years to school to learn casting of an account.

Let

Let this measuring and reckoning be pleasant to you, because the charge thereof will fall costly enough for you. To morrow she goes to market, to buy two or three pieces of linnen, one whereof must be very fine, and the other a little courser. And you need not take any notice what quantity of fine small Laces she hath occasion for, by reason it might perhaps overcloud this sixth pleasure of marriage, which you now possess.

Why should you not be merry? you have now above all things a Wife to your mind; who whatsoever she imagines, desires or doth, it is alwaies accompanied with wishes. O, saies she, how glad shall I be, when all things is bought that there ought to be for the making of my Child-bed linnen. And no sooner is it bought, but then she wishes that it were made.

But this requires some time: and then you'l have reason to rejoice; for

it is commonly the usual custom of the semstresses to let you go and run after them, and sop you off with lies and stories, till the time be so nigh at hand, that it will admit no longer delay.

Yet before you see that your wife hath accomplisht this desire, you'l find her very much troubled at two several causes, which will make you glad when she hath once obtained them. For these are things of importance, to wit, the making choice of a Midwife and a Nurse, because upon one depends the health and preservation of the life of the Woman; and on the other that of the Child.

Let it no waies molest or trouble you, but rather be pleasing and acceptable, if she be continually chattering at you, and desiring your advice and councell, who she shall make choice of or not; hereby you may observe, that you have a very carefull wife; and if you listen a little more narrowly, you will hear what a special care she

hath for all things; then ſhe will every day be relating to you that amongſt the number of Midwives which have been recommendad to her, there is not one that pleaſes her; for one is too young and unexperienced, another is too old and doting; a third is too big handed; a fourth hath too much talk; and the fifth drinks too much wine. To be ſhort there is ſo many deficiencies in everly one of them, that the good woman hath need of a learned Counſellors advice to help her to chuſe the beſt.

And the like trouble hath ſhe alſo concerning the taking of a Nurſe having already ſpent a above months time in examining among her kindred and relations, and other good acquaintance, how ſuch and ſuch nurſes have behaved themſelves; & ſhe is informed that there are few to be found but have certainly ſome faults or other, and ſomtimes very great ones, for one is too ſluttiſh, another ſaunters too much,

a third too lazy; another too dainty: and then again, one eats too much, and another drinks to much; one keeps company to much with the maid, and another in like manner with the good man: And ſuch a one or ſuch a one are the beſt, but they were not very handy about the hearth, to make ready ſome liquoriſh dainty things for the good woman, which is a matter of no ſmall weight.

Behold! hath ſhe not very great cauſe to be troubled: and thereout you may very well alſo obſerve how happy you are, ſeeing you have gotten a wife that night and day is buſie and taking care of all theſe concerns and other affairs. Yes verily, although her big-belly be very cumberſom to her, yet ſhe muſt be abroad, every day from morning till evening, to take care and provide all theſe important things, that nothing may be wanting. Well what a carefull wife you have! how mightily ſhe is concerned

for

for this above all other things whatsoever!

And scarcely hath the good woman gotten these two main instruments; but she finds her self still involved in so much other business, that she hardly can tell how to do or turn her self in it; for now there wants a Groaning stool, a Screen, and a Cradle with what belongs to it; and heaven knows what more, which have been so long neglected with the care that was taking to get a Midwife and a Nurse. Then again there wants new Hangings, a Down-bed a Christening-cloath, silver candle sticks, a Caudle-cup, &c. that of necessity must be bought & used at the lying-in, & Gossips feast; so that the good man need not fear that his mony will grow mouldy for want of being turned too&again.

Oh were your dear wife so happy that she had once made an end of all these ponderous affairs, then all would be well: For then she could

begin

begin to give order for the making clean the house from top to bottom; and for the pressing of some curtains, Vallians and Hangings; the rubbing of Stools, Chairs and Cupboard; the scouring of the Warming-pan and Chamber-pot: And't is no wonder, for when the good woman lies in, then come so many busie-bodies that with their glouring eyes are peeping into every hole and corner.

These things do so excessively trouble her brain; that she can hardly the whole day think upon any thing else, yea goes so near her that it oftentimes totally bereaves her of her nights rest insomuch that she is fain to ly very long a bed in the morning. And if by night she happen but only to think of Boobincjo, she hath immediately such an alteration in her very intrals, that she feels here or there some or other deficiency; which comes so vehement upon her that the poor husband, though it be never so

cold

cold, muſt out of bed to fetch ſome Cinnamon and Annis-ſeed water, or good ſack; or elſe ſome other ſuch ſort of thoſe liquoriſh ingredients and then theſe are the principal keys of Muſick that the whole night through are ſung and plaid upon. O how happy is the good man, that he hath, from time to time, in her child-bearing, learned all theſe things with ſo much patience, which makes him now that he can the better bear with all theſe finical humours;

But for this again, ô compaſſionate Ninny-hammer, you ſhall have not only great commendations for your patience; but the pleaſure alſo that ſome of your neareſt relations will come and kiſs your hands, and withall tell you how happy you are that y'are almoſt arrived at that noble degree of being intituled Father. And then, with great reſpect & reverence, they deſire to receive the honour ſome of being your firſt-born childs God-

fathers, and others to be God-mothers: Neither will they then be behind hand in presenting the Child with several liberal gifts, as an acknowledgement of the honour they receive, above others, in being favoured with your Gossipship.

Well who would not, for so much honour and respect, but now and then suffer the trouble of his wives quamish stomack with some charges to't? And more then that, you have now the best opportunity in the World, to go with your new chosen Gossips, (as you did before with your Birdemen) & chuse & taste out some of the most delicious Wine, for you must be sure to store your Cellar well, because then both the Bridemen and Bride-maids will certainly come to eat some of the long-look'd for Caudle; besides the great number of friends that will come then also to give you a visit, and with all respect wish you much joy: I will not so much as think

any

any thing of thoſe that will come alſo to the Chriſtning and Goſſips Feaſt.

Be joyfull with this, till ſuch time as the t'other Pleaſure begins to appear,

THE

THE SEVENTH PLEASURE.

The Woman falls in Labour.

BEhold, young couple, hitherto a considerable deal of time is spent and passed over, with the aforesaid Mirth and Pleasures; do not you now perceive what a vast difference is between the married or unmarried estate? You have, by provision, made your self Master of these six Pleasures; nay oftentimes before you have gotten the longd-for joy of the fourth Pleasure, appears that of the seventh very unexpectedly; for the good woman begins to look so sour, grumble, grunt and groan, that it seems as if she would go into the Garden and fetch a Babe out of the Parsley-bed.

But

But Uds-lid this is a great-surprizal; for a little while ago she said that she was but seventh months gone of her reckoning. How then? should she have jested upon it? or has the good woman lost her book, and so made a false account? Yet this being the first time of her reckoning, ought the more favourably to be passed by as long as the Trade goes forwards.

There's now no small alarm in the Watch. Who is there that is but near or by the hand that is not set a work! Oh, was Dorothy the Semstress, and Jane the Suandress now here, what a helping hand we might have of them! Where are now the two Chair-women also, they were commonly every day about the house, and now we stand in such terrible need of them, they are not to be found? Herewith must the poor Drone, very unexpectedly, get out of bed, almost stark naked, having hardly time to put on his shoes and stockins; for the labour comes

comes so pressing upon her, that it is nothing but, hast, hast, hast, fetch the Midwife with all possible speed, and alas, there is so many several occasions for help, that she cannot miss her maid the twinkling of an eye; neither dare she trust it to the Maids fetching, for fear she should not find the Midwives house; and she hath not shewed it her, because she made her reckoning that she had yet two months more to go.

Therefore without denial away the good man himself must to fetch the Midwife; for who knows whether or no she would come so quick if the maid went; nay it is a question also, being so late in the night, whether she would come along with the maid alone, because she dwells in a very solitary corner clearly at the t'other end of the City: (for after a ripe deliberation of the good woman, the lot fell so that she made choice of this grave and experienced Midwife.)

Away

Away runs the poor man without ſtop or ſtay, as if he were running for a wager of ſome great concern. And though it be never ſo cold, the ſweat trickles down by the hair of his head, for fear he ſhould not find the Midwife at home; or that perhaps ſhe might be fetcht out to ſome other place, from whence ſhe could not come. And if it ſhould happen ſo, we are all undone, for the good woman muſt have this Midwife, or elſe ſhe dies; neither can or dare ſhe condeſcend to take any of the other, for the reaſons afore mentioned.

But what remedy? if there muſt come another, then ſhe will ſo alter, vex, and fret her ſelf at it, that all the provocations of pains in labour, turns againſt her ſtomack, and there is no hopes further for that time.

But whileſt you are running, and conſider in this manner hope the beſt; rather think with your ſelf, what great joy is approaching unto you, if your wife,

wife, thus soon, come to be safely delivered of a hopefull Son or Daughter: In the first place, you will be freed from all that trouble of rising in the night, and from the heaving of the grumbling and mumbling of your wife; two months sooner then you your self did expect you should have been.

Be not discomforted although she doth thus unexpectedly force you out of bed, before you have hardly slept an hour, for you see there's great occasion for't; and now is the time to show that you truly love your wife. This first time will make it more accustomary, the first is also commonly the worst. And if you be so fortunate that at the very first you happen to meet with this prudent and grave Matron Midwife, & do bring her to your longing-for dearly beloved Wife; yet nevertheless you may assure your self, that before you can arrive to have the full scope and heighth

heighth of this Pleaſure, you'l find ſomething more to do: For the Midwife is not able alone to govern and take care of all things that muſt be fetcht, brought and carried to and again; therefore of neceſſity the friends muſt be fetcht with all the ſpeed imaginable, viz. Siſters, wives, Aunts, Couſins, and ſeveral familiar good acquaintances muſt have notice of it, and be defraied to come to her quickly, quickly, without any delay; and if you do not invite them very ceremonially every one according to their degrees and qualities, it is taken to be no ſmall affront.

It hath hapned more then a hundred times that the Siſter afterwards would not come to the Chriſtning Feaſt; becauſe, by chance, ſhe heard, that the Brothers wife had notice given her of the Child-bearing before her ſelf; little conſidering how few people the young people had in the night to aſſiſt them; or that

the confusion and unexperiencedness was the occasion that they did not think of such a method or order. Nay oftentimes is this sort of jealousie arisen between the Aunt and Cousin; whereby may most certainly observed the intelligibility of the most prudent female sex.

'Tis true this running seems both troublesom and tiresom but little doth the good man know that he is now first come into that noble School & herein his patience shall be effectually exercised or that this is but the first year of trying the same! O how happy are they that are well instructed in it.

Do but see how impatient the good expecting Father is. What is there not yet wanting, before he hath his lesson perfect! Behold the poor Drone, how he moves too & fro! see what a loss and tostication he is in! he tramples his hat under his feet, pulls the hair off head, not knowing whit

what he would do, or which way to help his dear Wife; and the Friends that were ſent for do not come ſo quick as he expected, becauſe the moſt part of them muſt firſt trick and prick themſelves up before that they dare come; the one fearing the piercing view of another, though they be all near relations and friends.

Here he ſtands trembling, not knowing which way to turn himſelf. Womens aſſiſtance is at this preſent moſt requiſite, and a good Stierman at Stern, or the ſhip may run upon a ſand. She runs firſt backwards then forwards; ſeeks here then there. And although he hath the keys of all the Cheſts, and Trunks, his head runs ſo much a Wool gathering, that, let him do what he will, he can find no ſort of thoſe things he moſt ſtands in need of.

Alas all things is thus out of order, by reaſon the good woman did not think to come ſo ſoon in Childbed,

Oh what manner of Jinkinbobs are not here wanting that are most usefull at this occasion; and the Midwife cries and bawls for them that she's hoarse again! here's both the groaning stool and the screen yet to be made: And Mistris *Perfect* hath them both, but they are lent out.

Yonder Peg the maid runs her anckle out of joint, and her self out of breath, to desire to borrow them of Mistris *Buy-all*. And she's hardly gotten out of dores, before they perceive that the warming pan is yet to be bought; and that that's worst of all, is, that all the Child-bed linnen is not yet starch'd ot iron'd; oftentimes it happens that it is yet upon the the Bankside at bleach. What a miserable condition is this!

Here the good man is at no small quandary, with all the women, oh were this the greatest disappointment for him! but presently he sees all the womens countenances looking very dole-fully and mournfully at each other

other, one beginning to pray; another to cry in; there comes a great aleration in the pange and pains of her Labour; nay they are sodesperate, that the fear is, either the mother or the child, or perhaps both must go to pot. For all whatsoever the Doctor hath prescribed, or that hath been fetcht from the Apothecaries; nay the very girdle of Saint *Francis* can work here no miracle.

Uds bud, this is but a sad spectacle. Oh, says Peg the maid, doth this come by marrying? I'l never venture it as long as I live. I do beleeve that it is very pleasurable to ly with a Gentleman, but the Child-bearing hath no delight at all in it. Oh I am affraid, if there come not a sudden change, that my good Mistris will not be able to undergo it. Oh sweet pretty blossom as she is.

'Tis most true, that here wants crums of comfort both for the husband and the wife; yea for the Midwife and all the rest of the Women be-

ſide; for they all cry that the tears run ſtreaming down their cheeks; and neither their Cinamon-water, nor burnt wine, can any waies refreſh or ſtrengthen her. Uds lid: if there come no other tiding the ſweetneſs of this pleaſure will prove but bitter to them.

But hark a little! there comes ſomething of a tiding, that brings us five pounds worth of courage with it. Two or thee more ſuch, would make every one of our hearts a hundred pound lighter, and the great Caudle Skellet would begin to quake and tremble.

Pray have a little patience, tarry, and in the twinkling of an eye you ſhall be preſented with a Child, and ſaluted with the title of Father.

THE

THE EIGHTH PLEASURE.

The Womans brought to bed.

HA boys! after all the toiling, the happy hour is at last arrived, that the good Woman, finally is delivered & brought to bed: well this is a mirth and pleasure that far surpasseth all the other; for the good man is, by a whole estate, richer then he was before.

Who can imagine or comprehend the jollity of this new Father? O he is so overjoyed that it is inexpressible: Doll and Peg must out immediately to give notice of it to all the friends and acquaintance; thing to himself that every body else will be as jocund and merry at it as he is. Do but see how busie he is! behold with what

earnestness he runs up and down the house to give order that the great Caudle Skillet may be in a readiness!

What a pleasure is it for him that he sees Mistris *Do-all* attending the Midwife, and giving her all manner of warmed beds and other Clouts, the number and names where of are without end; and that Mistris *Swift-hand* & Mistris *Fair arse* are tumbling all things topsie-turvy forsooth to seek and prepare in a readiness all those things that are most necessary for the Child; but little doth he think that they do it more to be peeping into every hole and corner, and to have a full view of all the Child-bed linnen, then out of needfull assistance? And wo be to the Child bed woman, if they do but find any where a Clout, Napkin or Towel, that by chance hath either a hole or a rent in it: for one or another of them will with grinning and laughnig thrust her finger through it, and then shew it to the

the reſt. taking alſo the firſt opportunity ſhe can lay hold of, when they are a little at liberty, to make a whole tittle-tattle about it, and very much admireth the careleſneſs and negligence of the Child-bed woman; as if ſhe were a greater waſt-all, and worſe houſe-wife than any of them elſe when to the contrary, if you ſhould by accident come into any of their Garrets, when the linnen is juſt come home from waſhing you would oftentimes find it in ſuch a condition, that you might very well imagine your ſelf to be in Weſtminſter Hall where the Colours that are Trophies of honour are hung up, one full of holes, another ratter'd & torn, and a third full of mildew.

Yet notwithſtanding all this peeping and ſnuffling in to every nook and corner, they finally get the Child ſwathled: And then to the great joy of the Father, it muſt be preſented him in ſtate by the Midwife, with

this golden expression, a Proverb not above two hundred years old, *Father, see there is your Child, God give you much joy with it, or take it speedily into his bliss.*

Uds bud how doth this tickle him! what a new mirth and pleasure is this again! see him now stand there and look like a Monky with a Cat in his arms. O delicate what a pretty condition he's now in!

Well Midwife look to't, for this joy hath taken such a tyrannical possession of his heart, that doubt not but immediately there will be a good present for you, when he gives it you back again. 'Tis no wonder, for if it be a Son, he is at least a thousand pound richer then he was before: though hem ay look long enough before he'l find a Bankers Bond in his Chest for the sum.

Now whilest the Child is swadled and drest up, all the other trinkum trankums are laid aside; and the Table

ble is ſpread neatly to entertain the friends, who not alone for novelties ſake, but alſo out of a ſweet tooth'd liquoriſh appetite, long to ſee what is prepared for them. And I beleeve that although the Kings Cook had dreſt it, yet there will be one or another of them that will be diſcommending ſomething, and brag that ſhe could have made it much delicater, if there be then any one that ſeems not fully to beleeve her, immediately ſhe cites two or three Ladies for her witneſſes, who have given her the greateſt praiſe and commendations for her dreſſing of ſuch diſhes above all others. And who can have better judgement then they? This is then a diſcourſe for at leaſt three hours, for they are all of them ſo well verſt in the Kitchin affairs, that its hard for one to get a turn to ſpeak before the other.

But this is an extraordinary Pleaſure for this new Father to hear out of

all their prittle pratlings how sweetly they will commend the Quill that hath received all the Colchester Oisters, Cox-combs, Sweetbreads, Lam-stones, and many other such like things, for they have found by experience that such sort of ingredients occasion very much the kindness of men to their wives. Yes, yes, saies M^rs. *Luxury* it is very good for my husband, and not amiss for any pallate neither, and I'm sure the better I feed my Pig, the better it is for me in the soucing out. And this discourse then is held up with such an earnestness, and continues so long, that the Child-bed woman almost, gets an Ague with it, or at the least falls from one swooning into another, whilest there is not so much as any one that thinks upon her.

Happy is the good man, if he can but act the part of a Ninny, and hath busied himself for the most part in the Kitchin; then he may be now and then

then admitted to caſt in his verdict; otherwiſe, let them talk as long as they will, he is forced in great miſery to afford them audience. But it is much better for him, if, according as the occaſion gives opportunity, there be now and then ſpoken ſomething concerning the Child-bed woman, or about the ſhaking of the ſheets, which is ſeldom forgotten; becauſe he is now already ſo far advanced in the Cony-craft of that School, that he is gotten up to the Water Bucket.

In the mean while Peg runs too and again, almoſt like one out of her ſences, to hunt for the Nurſe, who dwels in a little ſtreet upon a back-Chamber, or in an Ally, or ſome other by-place; and ſhe is juſt now no where elſe to be found but at t'other end of the City, there keeping another Gentle woman in Child-bed.

Here is now again other fiſh to fry, for one will not be without her, and t'other muſt needs have her, each pre-

pretending to have an equal right to her. And the Nurse, finding that each of them so much desires her, thinks no small matter of her self, but that she is as wise as many a Ladies woman or Salomons Cat, and that her fellow is hardly to be found. But before some few daies are past, there's a great trial to be made of the Nurses experience and understanding; for, let them do what they will or can, the Child will not suck; yea, and what's worse, it hath gotten a lamentable Thrush. Alas a day what bad work is here again, the Nurse is so quamish stomockt that she cannot suck her Mistres, therefore care must be taken to find out some body or other that will come and suck the young womans breasts for twelve pence a time; or else her breasts will grow hard with lumps and fester for want of being drawn. Or else also with the sucking she gets in the tipples.

Now

Now is the right time to fetch the Apothecary to make ready plaisters, and bring Fennel-water to raise the milk, that the lumps may be driven away; and most especially that the cloves in the tipples may be cured. Help now or never good M. Doctor, for if this continue much longer, the young woman perhaps gets an Ague that may then cost her her life.

Verily, in this state and condition of the woman is also some pleasure to be found, for you may keep your wife now very cheap; she is not now so liquorish and sweet-tooth'd, as when she was with Child; which in deed is very good at all times, but most especially in thie pittifull time for there's now nothing fitter for her to eat then a little good broth, stew'd Prunes, Caudle, Water-gruel, roasted Apples, or new laid Egs.

But, now Father, your Pleasure will immediately be augmented, for it will not be long before you will

have some or other Gentlewomen come to give you a visit, who will then also out of their Closets of understanding be very much assistant to you with their advice and counsel for there are very few of them that are not deeply experienced in Sir *Thomas Browns* Midwivery, and if any thing do happen more then ordinary, they never want for remedies.

Now there is Doctor *Needhams* wife, who by her own experimenting, hath knowledge of several other things: But upon such an occasion as this, there is nothing better then that the child must be glister'd; and for the lumps you must indevour through a continual chafing to get them out of the young womans breasts. But Mistris *Rattle-pate* relates, how miserably, she was troubled with an humour in her breast, when she lay in; but that she had alwaies cured her self of it, by only taking a Sandwich Carrot, and scraping it hollow.

low in the inside, and then put like a hat upon the tipple, this drew out all ill humour, without any pain, or the least fear of danger.

Yes truly, saith Mrs *Talk-enough*, I do indeed forsooth beleeve that that is very good, but here are very sore nipples, and they begin to be chop'd; and there must be a special care taken for that; therefore it will not be amiss to strengthen the nipples with a little *Aqua vitæ*, and then wash them with some Rosewater that hath kernels of Limons steep'd in it, There's nothing like it, or better, I have lain in of thirteen children, but never tried any thing that did me so much good, or gave me half the ease. Pray, dear Mistris, be sure to make use of that, you will never repent it.

But Mistris *Know-all* saith, that she hath made use of this also, and found some ease by it; and that she hath tried above an hundred other things,

things, that were approved to be good; yet of all things never found nothing under the Sun that was more noble then *Salvator Winter's* Salve, for that cures immediately: And you can have nothing better.

Yet Mistris *Standto't*, begins to relate wonderfull operations done with oyl of Myrrhe; and of the plaisters that are made by the Gentlewoman in Py-yard.

Now comes the sage Matron Experience, saying that she hath learnt secret from a prudent Doctor that's worth its weight in Gold, nor can the vertue thereof be too much commended. And she hath already communicated it unto several persons; but there are none that tried it who do not praise it to be incomparable; therefore she hath been very vigilant to note it down in S. *John Pain*, and *Nic. Culpeppers* Works; to the end that her posterity may not only make use of it, but participate it to others:

This

This is, *Lapis Calaminaris* prepared, mingled with a ſmall quantity of May-butter, and then temper them together with the point of a knife upon an earthen plate, juſt as the Picture Drawers do their Colours upon their Pallet, which will bring it to be a delicate ſalve; and is alſo very ſoft and ſupple for the chops of the tipples; nay, though the child ſhould ſuck it in, yet it doth it no harm; and it doth not alone cure them, but prevents the coming of any more.

Yes, ſaith Miſtris *Conſent to all*. and my advice is then to take a little horn, with a ſheeps udder, & lay that upon the Tipples, for that defends them, and occaſions their curing much better and ſooner.

O what a pleaſure it is to hear all the pretty conſiderations of ſo many prudent Doctreſſes! If *Clement Marot* might but revive, I am ſure he would find here as many Doctreſſes, as ever there were Doctors at Paris.

But ô how happy will this fortunate new Father be, when he may but once see the back-sides of all these grave and nice Doctresses! By my truth, this may very well be registred for one of the most accomplished Pleasures.

But yet all this doth not help the young woman. Perhaps all these remedies may be good, saith the Grand-Mother but they are not for our turns; for alas a day, the very smell of salve makes her fall into a swoon; neither can she suffer the least motion of sucking, for the very pain bereaves her of her sences. What shall we do then? to keep a Wet-Nurse is both very damageable, and cruel chargeable; for Wet-Nurses are generally very lazy and liquorish, and they are ever chatting and chawing something or other with the Maids; and in their manner they baptize it, with saying it is very necessary & wholesom for the Child. And then again, to put the Child out to Nurse, hath also several considerations;

tions; firſt it eſtrangeth much from you, and who knows how ill they may keep it. Therefore it is beſt to keep it at home, and indeavour the bringing of it up with the Spoon, feeding it often with ſome pure and cordial diets fit for the appetite, and now and then giving it the ſucking bottle.

But what remedy now? this is all to no purpoſe: For though the Grand-mother, Nurſe, and Ant do what they can, yet all their labour's loſt. And the Child is ſo froward and peeviſh, that the Nurſe is ready to run away from it; nay, though ſhe dandle and play with it alwaies till paſt mid-night, it is but waſhing the Black-a-more; in ſo much that a Wet-Nurſe muſt be ſought for, or away goes the Child to *Limbo*. For this again is required good advice, and the chuſing of a good one hath its conſideration: But the tender heartedneſs and kind love that the Mother hath for her Child can no way ſuffer this, ſhe will rather

rather suck it her self though the pain be never so great. Yet having tried it again a second time, the pain is so vehement that it is impossible to withstand it; therefore the new Father cannot be at quiet till there be a Wet-Nurse found and brought to them. For it goes to the very heart of both Father and Mother to put the Child out to Nurse.

And do but see after much seeking and diligent inquiring, the new made Grandmother, hath at last found one, who is a very neat cleanly and mighty modest woman, her husband went a little while ago to the *East-Indies*, & her child died lately.

This no small joy but an extraordinary Pleasure, both for the new Father, and Child-bed woman. Oh now their hearts are at rest. And now all things will go well; for as the Wet-Nurse takes care of the Child; the dry Nurse doth of the Mother, & all this pleases the good Father very well. Now

Now Child-bed-woman your time is come to make much of your ſelf, that you may recover ſtrength. Now you wont be troubled with the pains of ſucking, or diſturbed of your natural reſt: now you muſt let the Wet-Nurſe take care for every thing, and look after or meddle with nothing your ſelf. Now you muſt ſleep quietly, eat heartily, and groan luſtily. And though you be very well and hearty, yet you muſt ſeem to be weak and quamiſh ſtomackt; for firſt or laſt the month of lying-in muſt be kept full out. Do but think now by your ſelf what you have a mind either to eat, or drink; the firſt and worſt daies are with the toſſing and turmoiling paſſed by; neither can you recover any ſtrength with eating of Water-gruel, ſugar ſops, roſted Apples, and new laid Egs; you are not only weary of them, but it is too weak a diet for you. The nine daies are almoſt paſt, and now you muſt have

have a more strengthunig diet; to wit, a dish of fine white Pearch, a roasted Pullet, half a dozen of young Pigeons, some Wigeons or Teal, some Lams-stones, Sweet-breads, a piece of roast Veal, and a delicate young Turky, &c. And whileft you are eating, you must be sure to drink two or three glasses of the best Rhenish wine, very well sweetned with the finest loaf sugar, you must also be very carefull of drinking any French wine, for that will too much inflame you.

O new Father, what a Pleasure must all these things be for you; and especially, because now you begin at the Bed-side to eat and drink again with your Child-bed wife; and you begin also to perceive that if all things advance as they hitherto have done, you may then again in few daies make fresh assaults of hugging and embracing her.

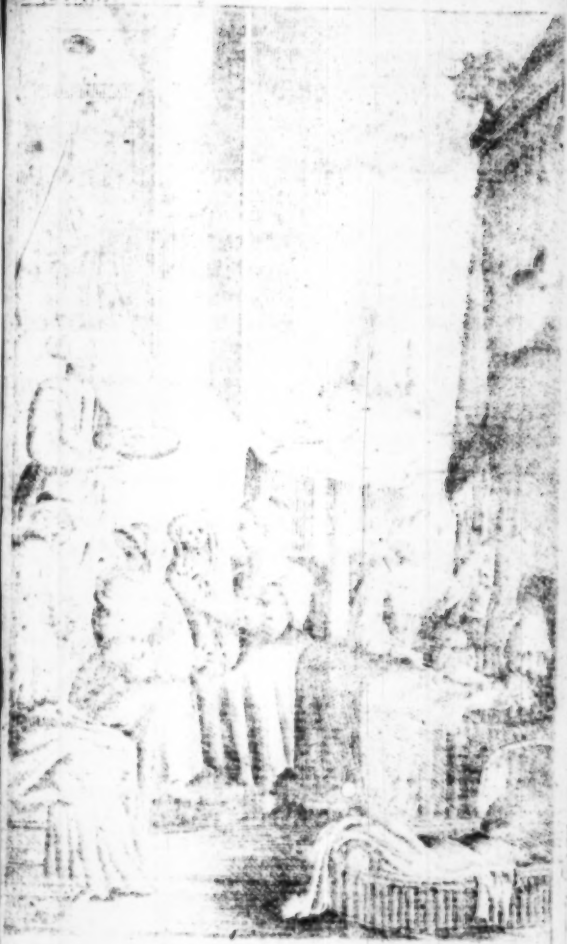
This is that jolly month or six weeks

weeks that all woman talk ſo pleaſantly of; becauſe it learns them alwaies ſuch a curious remembrance. And really it is almoſt impoſſible that the huſband at theſe rates can grow lean with it; becauſe he as well as his wife ſits to be cram'd up too: And he can now with his deareſt daily contrive and practice what the Nurſe ſhall make ready, that his Child bed wife may eat with a better appetite, and recover new ſtrength again. I would therefore adviſe the carefull Nurſe as a friend, that ſhe ſhould be ſure to provide her ſelf with the *Compleat Cook*, that ſhe might be the more ready to help the Child-bed woman to think upon what ſhe hath a mind to have made ready, for her brains are but very weak yet; ſo that ſhe cannot ſo quickly and eaſily remember at firſt what is pleaſanteſt and wholeſomeſt to be eaten.

O thrice happy new Father that have gotten ſuch a prudent diligent

and carefull Nurſe for your Child-bed wife! what great Pleaſure is this! And behold, by this delicate eating and drinking, your Deareſt begins from day to day to grow ſtronger and ſtronger; inſomuch that ſhe begins to throw the Pillow at you, to ſpur you up to be deſirous of coming to bed to her: Yea, ſhe promiſeth you, that before ſhe is out of Child-bed, ſhe will make you poſſeſſor of another principal and main Pleaſure.

THE



THE NINTH PLEASURE.

Of the Gossips Feast.

NOw, ô new Father, you have had the possession of eight pleasures, which undoubtedly have tickled you to some purpose.

But now there is a new one approaching, that will be as full of so many joyfull delights and wishings of prosperity, as ever the first and most famous hath been; for it seems as if your Child-bed wife begins to be a weary of this lazy liquorish life, and to leave off her grunting and groaning; because she now longs to be gadding up and down the street, or standig at the dore with her Babe in her arms.

But before this can be done, you

know that there ought to be a Gossips Feast kept, To this end the Nurse must be sent abroad; and a serious Counsel held, as if the Parliament of women were assembled, to consult who shall be invited, and who not. 's Wounds, what a list of relations and strange acquaintance are here sum'd up in a company together, to be invited to the Gossipping Feast. 'Tis impossible, the Nurse can ever do this all in one day; because she would not willingly miss any of them, out of the earnest hopes she hath of the Presents she expects. And then also she must give an account to every one of them that are invited of the state and condition of the Childbed woman and her Child. I wonder that there is no body that sollicites to have the Office of an Inviter to all such sort of Gossippings, but the women understand these affairs and the ordering of such sort of invitations much better then any one else,

elſe, therefore 't is not neceſſary.

O, new Father, what a ſweet Delight and Pleaſure you muſt needs have in reviewing this great Liſt of your Goſſips! What multiplicities of wiſhes of joy and proſperity have you to expect! But if I were to be your Counſellor, I aſſure you I would order the Nurſe to deſire Doctor *Toſs-bowl*, my Lord *Drink firſt* and then the other Gentlemen, to wit, Maſter *Cleardrinker*, *Dryliver*, *Spill-not*, *Sup-up*, *Seldom-ſober*, and *Shift-gut*, to fetch home their Wives in good time from the Goſſipping; becauſe you have other mens Wives, who are your near relations, that you muſt entertain longer; and they otherwiſe will never think of riſing or going home though it were midnight: And by this means you will have a fit opportunity, with a full Bowl and a Pipe, to waſh away that rammith ſent of a Child-bed out of your brains; and alſo after many

hopes, once arrive to the height of receiving your full delight and pleasure. And then you may e'en clap it all together upon the account of a Lying-in.

Now Nurse, here you have work by whole hand-fulls: for you shall no sooner have made an end of your other errands, but immediately there's so much tricking and pricking of all things up in neat order against the coming of the sharp-sighted guests; that it's a terror to think on't. Their eys will fly into every nook and corner; nay the very house of Office must be extraordinary neat and clean; for Mistris *Foul-arse*, Gossip *Order-all*, and Goody *Dirty-buttocks*, will be peeping into every crevise and cranny: And because they will do it forsooth, according to their fashion, they make a shew as if they must go to the necessary Chamber, with a Letter to *Gravesend*, only to take an inspection whether it be as cleanly

cleanly there as it is upon the Goſſipping Chamber where all the Gueſts are. And 't is a wonder if they do not look into the Seat, to ſee whether there be no Spyders webs ſpun in it; or whether the Goldfinders Merchandize be of a good colour, equal-ſize and thickneſs.

But come let's paſs all this by: for in the middle of theſe incumbrances, the time will not only fly away; but we ſhall, at the hour appointed, be ſurprized by our Gueſts. Uds life, how buſie the Wet and Dry-Nurſes are with dreſſing the Babe neatly Now Father, look once upon yout Child! O pretty thing! O ſweet-fac'd dainty darling! 't is Fathers own picture! Well what would not one undergo to be the Mother of ſo fine an Angel! And who can or dare doubt any thing of it, for the Mother loves it, and the Father beleeves it, nay and all the friends that come tumbling in one upon another to day,

do confirm it: For behold, every one looks earnestly at the Babe; and doth not a little commend his prettiness. One saith it is as like the Father (alias Daddy) as one drop of Water is like another. Another, that the upper part of the face, forehead, eys and nose incline very much to be like the mother; but down-wards it is every bit the Father. And who forsooth should not beleeve it, if it be a son. Every one is in an admiration. O me, what a pretty sweet Infant! Nurse, you have drest it up most curiously! And truly there's, no cost spar'd for the having very rich laces.

Thus they ly and tamper upon this first string, till the Child-bed woman begins to enter upon the relating what great pain in travell she had to fetch this Child out of the Parsly-bed, what a difference there was between her, and others of her acquaintance, &c. Thereout every one hath so much matter

matter, as would make a longwinded ſermon; and the concluſion generally is the relating how and when the good man crept to bed to her again; and how ſuch a one had been a fortnight with Child, before ſhe went to receive her churching. Where upon another comes with a full-mouth'd confeſſion, that her huſband was not half ſo hot in the cod-piece.

And a third again relates how her huſband tarried above a fortnight from home, after that ſhe was out of Child-bed; but comming then home, he did ſo claw her off and tickle her fancy for her that very preciſely upon the nine months end, ſhe was brought to bed of two children.

Do but tarry a little yet, till the Goſſipping-bowl hath gone once or twice more about with old Hock; then you'l hear theſe Parrots tell you other ſorts of tales.

In the mean while, do but ſee the

poor *Nicholas None-eys* how he rejoyces, that his wife is so reasonable strong again; and that she is so neatly trickt up sitting in state in the best furnished room, by the bedside! O what a pleasure this is! O how he treats all the women with delicate Marget Ale, and Sack and Sugar! [unless he begin to bethink himself, and for respects sake or frugality, sets some bottles aside; because he perceives it to be nothing else but a vast expence and womens Apish tricks] How busie he is in carving for them of his Roast-beef, Capons, Turkey-py, Neats-tongue, or some other savoury bit to make their mouths relish their liquor the better; and then stand fast Bowls and glasses for they resolve not to flinch from it? And indeed why should he not? for he's now a whole estate richer then he was before; and what need he care for it then.

Well behold here! Now the womens

mens mouths are a begining to be firſt a little warm; and none of them all can be ſilent, though they ſhould ſpeak of their own Commodities.

O how happy would you be, O Goodman *Cully*, if you had but as many ears as *Argus* had eys, that you might hear every where, whileſt you are carving and ſerving of them, what pretty ſweet ſtories and diſcourſes, theſe ſorts of Parrats will be talking of? For Miſtris *Sharp-ſet* relates, what a pleaſure ſhe oft times received in it, to keep School-time with her huſband at noons, as ſoon as they had feaſted their carkaſſes well: but that conning of her leſſon had cauſed her ſeverall times to make a journy to the Parſly-bed.

Miſtris *Touch and Take* relateth, how that being once at her Neeces at a Goſſipping, where ſhe and her huſband were ſtayed and treated ſomething more then ordinary; as they were going home they were ſud-

denly surprised with an amorous storm; so that coming home, they would not tarry to undress themselves but tumbling down upon the flore, they very furiously fell to't, hand over head; where she received such a benediction, that that very day nine months, she lay-in Child-bed of a young Betty; that was so like the child of the aforenamed Mistris *Touch* and take, as ever any one thing in the world can be like another. And she was more prosperons and healthy at this lying-in, then ever she had been before, &c.

Where upon Mistris *Currant* begins to relate for a most true story, how that a certain Maid who selleth Wine and Beer-glasses at this very time, had her Viol so filled by a little pretty mean fellow of her acquaintance; that about nine months afterwards, when it begun to be griping upon her, she went in person her self to the Town Midwife; where she immediately

mediately without further delay was delivered; and about an hour afterwards went home with the Child in her lap; where she both swath'd, and also wash'd out all the foul Linnen her self; nay, and the next day morning went her self with her child to have it Christned, and then she went and sat the whole day again, as formerly, at her Stall to sell glasses.

At this Mistris *Sincere* wonders extreamly; saying how strangely these things happen to one woman more then another. In our Parish there is a married woman brought to bed, but she was so miserably handled by the Midwife, that no tongue can express it. Insomuch that Master *Peepin* the Man Midwife, was fain to be fetcht, to assist with his Instrument; it was a very great wonder that the woman ever escaped it; which is most lamentable indeed to be related; and too sad

indeed

indeed to be placed by me among the Pleasures of Marriage.

Oh, saith Mistris *What d'ye call'er*, it is a very lamentable and sad condition, when things run so contrary that we must go a whole journy about to clear ones self of Pycorner; and resolve without much consideration, that a Chyrurgion must be sent for: And nevertheless, although it be very shameless, yet the necessity occasions and forces the doing of it: But when there is talk'd of such things, it makes me think a thousand times over of a certain passage that hapned to one of my neareſt friends and relations: When the good woman, being at the very end of her reckoning, begun to be grieved and pained very cruelly with the pangs and twangs of Childbearing, and it continued very long. What remedy soever they used, it helpt not, nor would go as they would have it: nay it continued three whole

daies

daies and nights; and then the woman begun to cry out, *Oh I cannot be delivered, unleſs I ſee that cut off before my eyes, by which I did get it.* Well I pray Miſtris, (ſaid Madam *Scripture*) what a horrible ſtrange deſire is this? Never did any Wife ask this of a Huſband! Would you in ſuch a manner deſtroy that which was created for good? there's no Law nor rule for that, neither can it be admitted. He hath done his duty, and it was your duty to be helpfull to him therein; but not that you ſhould requeſt ſuch mad and ſenceleſs things as thoſe are.

But it was e'en as much as if Madam *Scripture*, had knockt at a deafmans dore, for ſhe bawl'd a hundred times, *Oh I neither can nor ſhall be delivered, unleſs I ſee that cut off with which I have gotten it.*

Here was great need of good counſel: for what ever they ſaid or did, ſhe was like the Cucko, ſung her old con-

constant song; & her pains rather decreased, then increased as to the effect of a safe delivery; insomuch that there was a fear both Mother & Child would be lost. But to be short the business was very earnestly related to the husband, who was not very well pleased to hear a song sung of that tune; and indeed it was esteemed to be by the Doctor, Chyrurgion, Midwife, & all the friends rather a fit of frenzy & pure madness than any thing else. Notwithstanding, the love of the husband, and necessity of the wife, made them cogitate upon some subtle cheat in the case; that the husband using some mournfull actions, by wringing of his hands kissing and embracing her; should say to her; be of good comfort, my dearest; for since it is thy desire, behold, I will hazard my life to save thine. Presently three Doctors & four Chyrurgians were sent for; who did, in the presence & sight of his wife, bind him fast to a great arm-stoel; & he feigned to cry lamentably; and that most

espe-

eſpecially when he ſaw the Chyrurgians terrible inſtruments pull'd out & laid in order about him: whileſt they on the other ſide comforted him with many perſwaſive reaſons, & ſaying that he doubted not, but through their diligence & care to make a good cure of it, but ſtill acting & buſie to do the operation, at which the woman look'd cruel ſharp-ſighted; and as they were fumbling about him, ſome blood was ſpilt; juſt at which moment this man gave a horrible ſhriek; & as it ſeemed then the operation was very dexterouſly finiſhed. But one of the Chyrurgians having gotten a Cows Teat, & made it bloody, did it with ſuch an agility & quickneſs, the woman could no otherwiſe perceive but that her huſband had loſt his farthing candle. For the poor man lamanted bitterly, & fell in a ſwoon; but the wound being curiouſly dreſt, they laid him in bed, & commanded all things to be very quiet, &c.

The man was hardly warm in his bed, before the woman begun to be in a bit-

condition; and all things advanced ſo well every moment that in a very ſhort time after ſhe was ſafely delivered of a brave boy.

But the man kept his bed; and rejoiced heartily at his ſeeming gain; yet feigning himſelf very bad as before; for fear that if the cheat were in the leaſt manner perceived, it might be a hindrance to the health of his wife.

But when it had continued ſome few daies, the Doctors adviſed him, that he ſhould get up; and walk about a little which he did, and coming into his wives Chamber, feigns himſelf very weak, &c. yet begun from day to day to grow better and ſtronger as well as his wife.

The woman having lain-in ſome time, and the husband being cured; he begain to creep to bed to her. And after the month was very little more then paſt, ſhe having a huge mind to be doing, begins to put her hand to wards

wards her husbands farthing candle to play with it. Where-upon the man pushes her hand away, and saith, Well how sweetheart, am I not miserable enough to be brought by you already into such a deplorable condition, but you must needs grieve me yet more with your dallying.

And for that time she was fain to be contented therewith. But before many nights were past the Jill would be groping again; and because she was denied so before, begins to ask in this manner, well, sweetheart, prithee is it so totally taken away? Is there not so much as a stump left? Oh my dearest saith he, you know very well what I have suffered for your sake.

But at last nature overpow'ring him, it was impossible for him to tarry any longer out of Venus's Orchard: which pleased her so well, that imbracing him in her arms, she whispers him quietly in the ear; saying,

Oh

Oh sweet heart, the stump I vow is as good as the whole was.

Thus ended Mistres *Whatd'ye callser's* discourse: And the Nurse perceiving that through the length of the Story her mouth was grown dry in the telling, proffers her a bouncing glass of Sack and Sugar.

In the mean time, at the t'other end of the Chamber, Mistris *Fairtail* relates a pretty story how their Maid was very curiously stitcht up by their Tailor; and how she was every foot running thither, then to have a hole finely drawn that she had torn in her Petti-coat, another while to have her Bodice made a little wider, and then again to have her stockins soled. Which continued so long till at last she was brought to bed of a pair of young Bodice, with a lace & tag to it.

It is no wonder, (saith, Mistres *Paleface*) that this should happen to a poor innocent servant Maid; there was my husbands first wives niece Mrs. *Young-*

Young-rose that modest Virgin, she kept such a close conversation & daily communication with Master *Scuré*, that at last there appeared a little *Cupid* with little ears, and short hair.

Nay then (saith Mistris *Look about*) those two Sisters need not twit one another in the teeth with it; for the t'other kept such a sweet compliance and converse with the Spanish Fruiterer, yonder at the corner-house, where she did eat so many China Oranges, and other watrish fruits, that they caused her to get an extraordinary swelling under her stomack; which Doctor *Stultus* judged to proceed from some obstructions, wind, and other watrish humours; but it did not continue so long before her Mother, beginning better to apprehend the nature of her distemper, sent her away to her Country-house at Hackney, where she was cured of her obstructions and watrish humours, by the arrival of a little

Wag-about; at last returning home again very pale-fac'd for a tried Maid.

Mistris *Lookabout* was going to begin again; but they heard such rapping and knocking at the dore, that one of them said I beleeve there are our husbands; and indeed she guest very well. This augmented their mirth mightily. And especially of the Nurse; for now she was sure that, if the good Cully her Master treated his Gossips nobly and liberally, her presents would be doubled. But Nurse do not cheat your self, for fear it might happen otherwise; I know once a merry boon Companion, who being at a Gossipping Feast, called the Nurse alone to him; and saies to her, Nurse, I'l swear you are very vigilant and take a great deal of pains, in serving both us and our wives with all things, and also filling of us full glasses and bowls: hark hither, my wife is a little covetous, and oft-times so narrow-soul'd that she doth not keep her credit

dit where she ought to do, so that I beleeve her gift will not be very great, and truly because you are such a good body, see there, that's for you, put it some where privately away; & therewith thrusts her an indifferent great brass Counter, wrapt up in a paper, into her hand. The Nurse certainly beleeving this to be at the least a Crown-piece, thanks him very demurely, and puts it in her Pocket; never opening it till they were every one of them gone, but then she saw that she was basely cheated. But Nurse you are warned now by this, another time you may look better to't. Yet methinks I'd fill about lustily, it is the good man of the house his wine; and when the Wine begins to surge crown-high; the men are much more generous than before.

And verily methinks I have a mind to take my portion of it also; but yet not so as the Nurse did at my Neeces, who had tos'd up her bowls

ſo bravely upon the good health of the Child-bed woman her Miſtriſs, that when ſhe was going to ſwathe and feed the Child, inſtead of putting the ſpoon into the mouth, ſhe thruſt it under the chin, & ſometimes againſt the breaſt; and then when ſhe was about ſwathing of it; as it is commonly the cuſtom to lay a wollen blanket and linnen bed together, ſhe wrapt the poor Infant with its little naked body only in the blanket alone.

O thrice happy young Father, who have hitherto ſo nobly treated and entertained all your She-Goſſips, and had the audience of all their curious relations! Now you will have the honour alſo of entertaining their husbands your He-Goſſips, who will not be backward in doing of you reaſon out of the greateſt bowl you will ſet before them, and talk as freely of a Py-corner merchandize.

Who is there now that doth not praiſe, and commend your manfull deeds

deeds to the higheſt? Ha, ha, ſaith Maſter *Laugh-wel*, that's a Child! who ever ſaw a braver! there's not the fellow on't! O my deareſt, I have ſuch a delight in this Child, that if we were but a little alone together, I'd caſt you ſuch another as if it were of the ſame mould. Stay a little, ſtay a little, ſaith *Maſter Fillup*, it may be you would not run ſo ſtrong a courſe. Yet I ſaw once two Souldiers who were Batchelors, that were ſitting in an evening drinking in an Alehouſe, and talking luſtily of the Bobbinjo trade; whereupon one of them ſaid; Cocks-bobs *Jack* if I had but a Wife, as well as another, I'd preſently get her with Child of a brave boy. Ho, ho, ſaith the t'other, it is an eaſie thing to get a Wife if one ſeek it. If I would, I dare lay a wager on't, I would be the Bride-groom within the ſpace of two hours. The other not beleeving him, they laid a wager between them for a pottle of Wine. Hereupon one of them

went out of dores just upon the striking of the clock; & hardly was gone a streets length, before he met with a bonny bouncing girl, who was going of an errand for her Mistris, and he presently laies her on board. But she seemed to be very much offended, that an honest Maid going about her business in the evening, should be in this manner so encountred by a strange fellow, with a sword by his side. Verily, Sweetheart, said he, you have a great deal of reason in all what you say; but you may certainly beleeve that it is an honest person who speaks to you, and only seeks an occasion to be acquainted with a virtuous good condition'd Maid. My wearing of a sword, is because I am a Souldier, and am very well known by many honest people. And truly, if you please to admit me this favour, you shall see and find me to be an honest man, and none of those that go about to ly and deceive; any body; and indeed my intention

tion & desire is to marry, to that end seeking nothing but an honest Maid, and I doubt not but that I have at this time found one to my mind. And went forward with his chat in these sort of terms. But the Maid denied him, saying, that she had no mind at-all to a Souldier, because it was one of the poorest and miserablest sort of levelihoods; their pay being but very little, and they were seldom advanced, &c. He on the other side commending & approving a Souldiers life to be the merriest, resoluteſt, & absolute easiest of any that was under the Sun; because that neither hungrie care, nor finical pride did any waies take place by them, but that they, on the contrary were alwaies merry, never admitting sorrow into their thoughts. 'Tis true, said he, our pay is but small; but then again, all what the Country people have, is our own; for what we want our selves, we get from them: we never take care for to morrow, having

alwaies something fresh, & every day new mirth. Riches, Sweetheart, doth not consist in multiplicity of Goods, but in content; & there's no one better satisfied then a Souldier, therefore you shall alwaies see an honest Souldier look plump and fat, just as I do: but Drunkards and Whoremasters fall away miserably, &c,

In short, the Maid begun a little to listen to him (and so much the more, because that very morning she had a falling out with her Mistris) and told him, she would take it into consideration, He answered her again, what a fidle stick, why should we spend time in thinking? we are equally matcht: a Souldier never thinks long upon any thing, but takes hold of all present opportunities, and it generally falls out well with him. But she drawing back a little, he saith, ah my dearest, you must take a quick resolution. Behold there, yonder comes a Cloud driving towards the Moon:

I'l

I'l give you ſo much time, till that be paſt by; therefore be pleaſed to reſolve quick, for otherwiſe I muſt go & ſeek my fortune by another. For a Soldier neither woos nor threatens long.

Upon this ſhe conſidered a little, but before the Cloud was paſt by the Moon, ſhe gave him her conſent; and he gave her his Tobacco-box for a pledge of marriage; and deſired ſome thing of her in like manner for a pledge; but ſhe ſaid ſhe had nothing: howſoever he perſiſted ſo ſtrongly, that in concluſion ſhe gave him her Garter for a pledge of marriage. He was contented with it, and taking his leave, went unto his Comrades; and told them what had hapned to him, ſhewing them the Garter. Whereupon he that had laid the wager with him, askt, who it was, what her name was, and where ſhe dwelt, &c. And being told by another, that it was a handſom, neat, and very well complexion'd

Maid. By my troth, said he, I wish I were to give four Cans of Wine that I could light upon such another. Well, see there, saith the first, if you will give four Cans of Wine, I will both give you the Garter & the Maid too into the bargain: It was done but by Moon-light; so that she'l hardly know whether it be me or another.

Hereupon the agreement was concluded, the two first Cans of Wine were spent, and the Garter was delivered to him, and every one charged to keep it secret.

This second Souldier goes to the Maid next day in the evening, at the hour and place where they had appointed to meet. And there relating to her several passages that were passed between them the day before, and shewing her the Garter, made her believe that he was the person that had contracted with her the day before. To be short, the Maid leaves her service and marries him. And that which

is

is moſt to be obſerved, is, that that which the firſt Souldier vaunted to have done, the ſecond performed; for juſt nine months after they were married, ſhe was brought to bed of a gallant young boy, and they lived very peaceably and quietly together.

Well, I'l vow, ſaith Maſter *Croſs-grain*, that's a very notable relation; it is better a great deal that the buſineſs happen ſo, then like another, which is juſt contrary, that I ſhall make mention of to you.

Barebeard and *Mally*, who by a ſudden accident, without much wooing, were gotten together, and their firſt Bane of matrimony was publiſhed; but falling out, they called one another all the names that they could reap together; nay it run ſo high, that they would diſcharge each other of their promiſes, and reſolved to go to the Biſhop & crave that they might have liberty to forbid the Banes themſelves, which hapned ſo.

Barebeard coming then with *Mall* before his Grace, complained that he did already perceive his intended marriage would never come to a good event, because he found perfectly that this Maid was a lumpish Jade, a nasty Slut, a Scolding, bawling Carrion, & a restless peece of mortality. Therefore it might go as it would, he did not care for the Maid, neither would he marry her, and for those reasons, he desired his Grace to grant that the Banes might be forbidden; as thinking it much better for him to quit her betimes, before it was too late. She on the t'other side said, that he was one that run gadding along the streets at all hours of the night, a private drunken beast, a Spend-thrift, &c. so that she did not care for him neither. Whereupon his Grace smiling told them, well you fellow and wench; do you think that we do here so give and take away the consent of marriage? perhaps when you are married, it may

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be much better, for the marriage bed doth for the most part change the tenſences into five. But ſhe anſwered, may it pleaſe your Grace, he is no ſuch man to do that, for all that he can do is only to follow his own round-head-like ſtifneckedneſs, and e'en nothing elſe. Whereupon he again anſwered, may it pleaſe your Grace, I have no mind ever to try it with ſuch a creature as ſhe is; I ſhould be then faſt enough bound to her; neither would I willingly go alive headlong to the Devil, to take my habitation in Hell.

The Biſhop thus perceiving that no good thread could be ſpun of ſuch ſort of Flax, cauſed the Banes to be forbidden. Then ſaid *Barebeard*, may it pleaſe your Grace, am I not a freeman, & may I not marry with whom I pleaſe, or have a mind to? to which his Grace anſwered, yes. Preſently *Barebeard* thruſting his head out at the dore, calls out aloud, *Peg* do you come hither now; and begged that his Grace would

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be pleased to give him leave to marry with this person. Which Mall seeing she cries out, you Rogue, you have been too coming for me in this; if I had the least thoughts on't, I would have had my *Hal* to have tarried for me at this dore, in stead of tarrying for me at another place. Whereupon his Grace, being in great ire, chid them most shrewdly, giving them such strong reproofs, that at first it might very well be imagined that he would never have admitted of a second consent; yet afterwards upon considerations it was granted. But *Barebeard* being now married with *Peg*, they got no children: And *Mall* being married to *Hal*, they had both a Son and a Daughter at one birth. By which its easie to be observed what acquaintance *Mall* had made with *Barebeard* before hand, & why she would rather marry with Hall then with him.

To this again Mistris *Sweetmouth* relates, that she had been several times in-

invited to Mistris *Braves* labour; and that she had been twice brought to bed very happily of two delicate twins. And in the last encounter, for a recompence of the affection of her Beloved, she presented him with two lustly and gallant boys; but because she would equally balance his great bounty; the Midwife takes the same walk again for another, and finding in what condition things stood, she calls for a bason of warm water, bringing out at last a most delicate pretty daughter, that was yet poor thing wrapt up in the Cawl. Which she immediately laid into the warm water, and shewed unto them all the wonderfull works of nature; for there they could see it move and stir, as if it had been in its Mothers glass Bottle; but the skin being just cut open with a small hole, it begun presently to make a little noise like a weak childish voice, which indeed was very rare & pleasant to be seen. In truth, such a Father, who

who can cast every time such high doubblets, may very well be called by the names of Brave.

But this Story was hardly told before Mistris *Tittle-tattle* pursued it with another out of the same Text-saying, A little more then two years ago I was at a Gossipping by Mistris *Gay*, who was then brought to bed both of a Son and a Daughter, also at one birth; but indeed the Labour came so violently upon her, that as she was standing upon the stairs, not being able to set one foot further; and having neither Midwife, nor any other women of her neighbors and friends, only the assistance of her husband and the Maid; she was immediately delivered of two gallant Children; but they did not live long.

Upon my word, said Mistris *Bounce-about*, it is an excellent help when men understand their travelling

ling upon ſuch ſort of roads. It happened to me once that ſome Gentlewomen were merry with me ſomewhat late in the evening; and becauſe I had had ſeveral Symptoms of Labour, ſaid this Miſtris *Bounce-about*, if you would now take a walk to the Parſley bed, we would help you very bravely; but neither wind nor weather was ſerviceable at that time. But they had hardly been gone an hour, and being in bed with my husband, and he very faſt aſleep; before there begun ſuch an alteration of the weather; that my huſband muſt up with all ſpeed, who wakened the Maid, and ſent her for the Midwife laying on fire himſelf in all haſt; yet do all what they could, within leſs then a quarter of an hour, and that without any bodies help but my huſbands, my journy was performed; but things were done with ſuch a confuſion; that

that he received the child in the Chriſtning cloath inſtead of the Blanket.

And a thouſand more ſuch ſtories as theſe are ript up; that would burthen the ſtrongeſt memory to bear them: and ſo much the more, becauſe it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh one from the t'other, when the men and the women that gabble ſo one among another. And oft-times they ſpin ſuch courſe threads of bawdery in their talk, that are enough to ſpoil a whole web of linnen. And who can tell but that their tattling would laſt a whole night, for there's hardly one of them who hath not at the leaſt a hundred in their Budgets; but becauſe it is high time that either the Dry or Wet-Nurſe muſt go to ſwathe the child, they begin to break off and ſhorten their prittle-prattle.

Now young Father, do but obſerve what fine airy complements will be preſented to you at their parting. Every one thanks you for your kind and

and cordial entertainment, and not one of them forgets to wish that you may the next year either have a Daughter to your Son, or a Son to your Daughter; imagining then that all things is well, when you receive such a full crop: But I am most apt to beleeve that all their wishes aim at the But of coming next year again to the Gossips Feast, to toss up the Gossips-bowl, and in telling of a bobbinjo story they peep into all nooks and corners.

Well, O new Father, this Pleasure begins to come to a conclusion; but prithee tell me, would not a body wish for the getting of such another, that his Wife might make a journy to the Parsly-bed twice a year?

Now Nurse have at you; you shall now reap the fruit of all your running and going early & late to invite them. Oh thinks she by her self, would but every shilling change it self into a crown-peece. But Nurse you'l hardly be

be troubled with a fit of that yellow Jaundies sickness, for there's no drug at the Apothecaries, nor any lice among the Beggars that can cure you of it. And I dare say Nurse, that you'l go nigh to perceive that its a very hard time, and mony mighty scarce: because formerly the women used to put their hands more liberally in their purses, and one gave a crown, another half a crown; but the times are now so strangely altered, that they keep little mild-shillings only for that use, nay some of them rub it off with a couple of their Grandams gray groats. But howsoever I hope for your sake, it will not be here according as often happens, fair promises but no performances; for if it should, I protest ye ought to have made your bargain to have had a peece more at the least for your Nurse keeping; or otherwise you must have had the full liberty to tos up the remains of all that was left in the Gossipping Bowls,

Bowls, or elſe to have carried the key of the Wine Cellar alwaies in your pocket, and then after the feeding and ſwathing the child, you might in the twinkling of an eye, ſwinge up a luſtly glaſs upon the good health of the Father, Child-bed mother and the Child; for the Wine was laid in to be made uſe of to that end and purpoſe; and it is commonly known that the Nurſes are not ſo mealy mouth'd; for although they don't do it that every one ſhould ſee it, they'l be ſure with the Maid to get their ſhares in one corner or other. But you muſt for this again think, that the freer you let them take their ſwing herein, the more care they will take for the Child.

Now Nurſe, don't ſpare to make good uſe of your time, for it belongs amongſt other things to this Pleaſure; and the new Father will nevertheleſs be turning about to another mirth, and then you may be ſure to

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expect to have a God be w'ye. Therefore make much of your self, and toss up your glasses stoutly at the Wine-Cask; who knows whether you may have the opportunity this twelve month again to meet with such a good Nurse-keeping; a liquorish sweet-tooth'd Child-bed woman, & a plentifull house-keeping, is not every where. And you may certainly believe, that the month will be no sooner ended, then that you'l begin to stink here; for the Mistris will begin to consider with her self, that she can make a shift with the Maid and Wet-Nurse; so that then you must expect to get your undesired Pass.

Then you must return back again to your own lodging, that dark, moist and mournfull Cell, and satisfie your self, if you can get it, with a mess of milk and brown George, or some such sort of lean fare: So that you'l have time enough to wast away that fulsomness and fogginess of body, that you

you have gotten in your Nurſe-keeping. For there's no body that will give you any thing, or thinks in the leaſt upon your attendance, unleſs they want you again.

O new Father, pray for it to come again within a twelve month, that you may have a renewing of this pleaſure once more; for it is with the Nurſe-taking its leave, and will conduct you to a following.

THE

THE TENTH PLEASURE,

A great Child-bed Feast is kept, and the Child put in Cloaths.

OH how pleasant is th'estate of married people, above that of Batchelors and Maids? how it distributes Mirths and Pleasures! Verily one may in some measure recogitate or write something of it, but it is impossible to imprint so Sun-like a splendor in Potters clay, or to display it with the most curious Colours. Though the accomplished Painter might have drawn it very near the life, yet it would be but a dead draught, in comparison of the reality and experience that is found in it self. You have already seen here nine Parts or Tables but it is not ninety

Pictures

Pictures that can sufficiently shew you the fulness of one of the nine Parts.

Be therefore chearfully merry, O sweet Couple, because you are in so short a time arisen to the heigth of being possessors of all these Pleasures: And so much the more, the ninth being hardly past, before the tenth follows, as it were treading upon the heels of the t'other.

They have scarce wiped their mouths or digested the Child-bed Wine in their stomacks, before there starts up a new day of mirth & jollity; for now there must be a Child-bed feast kept & the child must be put in Cloaths. O what two vast Pleasures are these for the young Father! 't is indeed too much joy for one person alone to be possessor of.

At first you had the Pleasure for to treat the Women, those pretty pleasing Creatures, and to hear all their sweet and amiable discourses. But now you shall be honoured with treating

ting the Matron like Midwife; and those Men and Women that are your kindest friends and neareſt relations; Yea and the God-Fathers and God-Mothers also who will all of them accompany you with courteous diſcourſes and pleaſant countenances: They will begin a luſty Bowl or thumping glaſs, *ſuper naculum* drink it out, upon the health & proſperity of you, your Bedfellow and young Son; and very heartily wiſh that you may increaſe and multiply, at leaſt every year with one new Babe; becauſe that they then might the better come to the Child-bed Feaſt.

Here you'l ſee now how ſmartly they'l both lick your diſhes, and toſs your Cups and Glaſſes off. Begin you only ſome good healths, as; pray God bleſs his Majeſty, and all the Royal Family: the Proſperity of our Native Country; all the Well-wiſhers of the Cities welfare, &c. And when you have done, they'l begin; and about

about it goes to invest you with the honour and name, in a full bowl to the Father of the Family; Well is not that a noble title; such a Pleasure alone is worth a thousand pounds at least.

And whilest the Men are busie this way; the good woman with the other Women are contriving on the other side how the Child ought to be put in Cloaths upon the best and modishest manner: For she is resolved to morrow morning to be Church'd, & in the afternoon she'l go to market.

She accomplishes the first well enough, but is at a damnable doubt in the second part of her resolution; for by the way, in the Church, and in the streets, she hath continually observed severall children, and the most part of them dressed up in severall sorts of fashions: Some of them she hath a great fancy for, but then she doubts whether that be the newest mode or not. One seems too plain and common, which makes her imagine in her thoughts;

that's too Clownish. But others stand very neat and handsom. 'Tis true, the Stuf and the Lining is costly and very dear; but then again it is very comly and handsom. And then again she thinks with her self, as long as I am at Market, I'd as good go through stitch with it; and make but one paying for all; it is for our first, and but for a little child, not for a great person; therefore it is better to take that which is curious and neat, the price for making is all one; besides it will be a great Pleasure for my husband when he sees how delicately the child is dresst up, and his mony so extraordinarily well husbanded.

Now, my deares't, pray be you merry: if the stuf hath cost something much, you have need but of little; and it is for your first. When it grows bigger, or that you get more, you must part with much more mony. Don't grudge at this for once, because then you would spoil all your mirth and

Plea-

Pleasure with it. Rejoice that you have a Wife, who is not only good to fetch children out of the Parsley Bed; but is also very carefull to see them well nourished, and neat and cleanly cloath'd. You your self have the praise and commendation of it. Let her alone a while, for women must have their wills; say but little to her, for her brains are too much busied already; and it may be that in three hours time, you would hardly get three words of answer from her; and suppose you should relate something or other to her, this shall be your answer from her at last, that she did not well understand you, because all her thoughts, nay her very sences do as it were glide to & again, one among another continually, to order the dressing up of her child.

I am very well assured, O new invested Husband, that your wits at present run a Wool-gathering, because that both Merchandize and Trade

are neither of them so quick as you would fain see them; and by reason of this tedious and destructive War, monies is horrible scarle, nothing near so plentifull as you could wish it to be: But comfort your self herewith, that it hath hapned oft-times to others, & will yet also happen oftner to you. Yet this is one of the least things; but stay a little, to morrow or next day the Nurse goes away. This seems to be a merriment indeed; for then you'l have an Eater, a Stroy-good, a Stuf-gut, a Spoil-all, and Prittle-pratler, less than you had before.

You are yet so happy that you have a Wet-Nurse, that carefully looks after the Child; by which means both you and your Wife are freed from tossing and tumbling with it in the night: whilest others, on the contrary, that have no Wet-Nurses in their houses; begin first to tast, when the Dry-Nurse goes away, what a Pleasure it is that the Child must be set by the Bed-

side,

ſide, and the charge thereof left unto both Father & Mother, when it oftentimes happens that the good woman is yet ſo weak, ſhe can neither lay the Child in, nor take it out of the Cradle; inſomuch that the Father here muſt put a helping hand to't, becauſe he is of a ſtronger conſtitution, and hath the greateſt ſhare in it.

By my faith ſuch as thoſe are they who have the firſt and true taſt of the Kernel of the Tenth Pleaſure; becauſe the huſband ought as then, out of a tender affection for his wife to rock continually, that ſhe might take her reſt; otherwiſe ſhe would not get any ſuck in her breaſts for the Child: And happy they are ſomtimes, if they come off with but rocking the moſt part of the night; for many times it happens, that the Child is ſo reſtleſs and unquiet, that Father, Mother, & Maid; nay and all whatſoever is in the houſe muſt out of their beds to quiet it; and though they uſe a thouſand tricks

and stratagems, yet all's to no purpose.

And yet this is but a small matter for them neither; for before a few months are past, the child begins to get teeth; and bawls and cries so night & day, that they can tell the clock all the night long; wishing a thousand thousand times over that they might see day-break; and so by the comfortable assistance of day-light receive a little solace for all their toiling and tumbling too and again.

Yet I would advise such as these, that they must in no manner be discomforted at this; if they intend to demonstrate that they have learnt something in the School of Marriage, to exercise their patiences: But, on the contrary, to shew themselves contented with all things; being assured, that hereafter when all this trouble is past, they shall receive the happiness, that the child will return them thanks with its pretty smiles; and in time also

will

will ſalute them with a ſlabbering co-curring. And I beleeve now that they clearly find that all things do not go ſo even in this World, as they well imagined: And that the faireſt Sunſhine of Marriage, may be ſomtimes darkned with a Cloudy Storm.

You married people, that have the help of a Wet-Nurſe, receive a much greater advantage in participating of the Pleaſures of Marriage, neither need you to be troubled with toſſing & dandling of the child in the night. But on the contrary, you may challenge one another to encounter with all ſorts of weapons for venial pleaſures; whereby you may moſt certainly be aſſured (by reaſon the child doth not ſuck its own Mother, that ſhe's therefore touch and take the ſooner) that you will very ſpeedily and unexpectedly receive the tiding, that your beloved is proved with child, and begins to reckon again.

O, young Houſe-Father, this is a moſt

most incomparable Pleasure for you! For now you may most certainly see the approach of a Daughter to your Son; and by that means reap the possession again of all those former Pleasures; & by every one be saluted with the Title that you are an excellent good Artist at it.

If it be so, be carefull that you do not gad up and down with your wife too much on horseback, or in Coaches; for fear it might make her miscarry. But you have learnt all these things well enough at the first, and without doubt have kept them well in remembrance.

Do but behold, in the mean time, what an unexpressible Pleasure your dearly Beloved hath in the tricking up of her sweet Baby in the most neatest dresses. What a World of pains she takes & spends her spirits, to make the Tailor understand, according to what fashion she will have it made; & to hasten him that all things may be ready

ready and totally finisht against Sunday next.

O new Father, now open your eys! Behold what a pretty Son you have! How happy you are in so loving and understanding a Wife that knows how to trick it so curiously up in this manner! She was never better pleased! Undoubtedly the Summer nights are too long, and the daies too short for her to gad up and down traversing the streets of the City, that she may fullfill her desire of shewing it to every body: never was any thing more neatly drest. But the Nurse and the Maid wish the Child in the mean while at Jericho; for their very backs and sides seem to be absolutely broken with carrying it up & down from day to day. And most especially when the Child is wean'd, and the Wet-Nurse turn'd away, the Maid cannot let it penetrate into her brain, that she now not only the whole week must rock, sing, dandle, dress, and walk abroad with

with it; but that she is upon Sundaies also bound to the Child, like a Dog to a halter; and never can stir out, as she formerly did, to walk abroad with *Giles the Baker*, or *John True the Taylor*; nor so much as go once to give a visit to her Country-folks or kindred; which occasions no small difference between the Maid and the Mistris.

But good House Father, never trouble your self at it, for this belongs also to the Pleasures of Marriage; nor do not seem discontented because your Dearest walks abroad thus every day; but rather think with your self, she takes her spinning Wheel and reel along with her. And if in her absence, you have not that due attendance, nor find that in the house and Kitchin, things are not so well taken care for why then, you must imagine to be satisfied with th'assistance of the Semstress, or some such sort of person, as well as you were when you injoied the Eighth Pleasure: You must also ob-

obſerve, that if the Child ſhould ſit much, it might get crooked legs, and then the ſweet Babe were ruined for ever. It is alſo too weak yet to be any waies roughly handled; but it begins from day to day to grow ſtronger and ſtronger: Alſo with your Deareſts carrying it abroad continually to viſit all your friends and acquaintance, it learns by degrees to eat all things, and drinks not only Beer, but ſome Wine too. And I aſſure you it is no ſmall Pleaſure for the Father and Mother to ſee that this little young Goſling can ſo perfectly diſtinguiſh the taſt of the Wine, from the taſt of the Beer: tho when it is come to ſome elder years, perhaps they would give a hundred pound, if they could but wean it from it. But that's too far to be lookt into. And care too ſoon taken makes people quickly gray-headed.

Before you reach this length, yea perhaps before ſome few weeks are at an end; you will ſee this ſweet Babe

afflicted with either the Measels or small Pox; and then you'l wish for a good sum of mony that he might not be disfigured with them, in having many pock-holes. And it is no wonder, for who knows whether he may be past small-pocking and measeling when he is five & twenty years of age? But on the contrary there may then perchance appear so many glimps of marriage Pleasures from him, that such small things will not be once lookt at.

For if your Wife be now upon a new reckoning, and you come then, as I have told you before, to get a Daughter; you will in time see what a pretty sweet Gentlewoman she'l grow to be; how modestly & orderly she goes to learn to write and read; but most especially to prick samples; which perhaps she'l be wholly perfect in, before she hath half learnt to sow: nay its probable that she'l be an Artist at the making of Bone-lace, though she was never taught it.

Other-

Otherwise both you & her Mother will reap an extraordinary Pleasure in seeing your Daughter grow up in all manner of comly and civil deportments; and that she begins to study in the book of *French manners and behaviours*; and knows also how to dress up her self so finically with all manner of trinkum trankums, that all the neighbouring young Gentlewomen, and your rich Neeces esteem themselves very much honoured with the injoiment of her company; where they, following the examples of their Predecessors, do, by degrees, instruct one another in the newest fashions, finest Flanders Laces, the difference and richness of Stuffs, the neatest cut Gorgets, and many more such Iincombobs as these. Nay, and what's more, they begin also to invite and treat each other like grave persons, according as the opportunity will allow them, first with some Cherries and Plums; then with some Fil-

buds and Small Nuts; or Wallnuts & Figs; and afterwards with some Chesnuts and new Wine; or to a game at Cards with a dish of Tee, or else to eat some Pancakes and Fritters or a Tansie; nay, if the Coast be clear to their minds to a good joint of meat & a Sallad. Till at last it comes so far, that through these delicious conversations, they happen to get a Sweetheart, and in good time a bedfellow to keep them from slumbring and sleeping. And it is very pleasing to see that they do so observe the making good of the old Proverb,

As old Birds did, the young ones sing,
Which is a very pleasant thing.

Happy are you, ô you new Housholders, who have already possessed your selves of so many Pleasures in your marriage; and are now come just to the very entrance to repossess your selves of them over again; and perchance they'l never depart from you as

as long as you see the one day follow the other. Be not backward or negligent in relating your happiness to others; but if there be any distast or disaster that can happen in the married estate, lock it up in the very Closet of your heart, and abhor everlastingly the thoughts of relating it; then you will have many that will pursue your footsteps, and be Lifted into your Company, & then also will your estate and condition be famous through the whole World.

Conclusion.

THus long you have seen, Courteous Reader, how that those married people, who are but indifferently gifted with temporal means, indeavour to puff up each other with vain and airy hopes and imaginations, perswading themselves that all the troubles, vexations, and bondages of the married estate; are nothing else

but Mirths, Delights and Pleaſures; perhaps to no other end but to mitigate their own miſerable condition, or elſe to draw others into the ſame unhappy ſnare; as indeed oftentimes hapneth. But it is moſt ſad and lamentable, that the meaner ſort of people, when they have thrown themſelves into it, make their condition a thoutimes worſe then it was before: For they, who at firſt could but very ſoberly and ſparingly help themſelves, do find when they are married, that they muſt go through not only ten, but at leaſt a thouſand cares and vexations. And all what hath hitherto been ſaid of the ten Pleaſures, is only ſpoken of the good and moſt agreeable matches; and not of any of thoſe, which many times are ſo different and contrary of humour, as the light is from darkneſs; where there is a continual Hell of diſſention, curſing, mumbling and maundring; nay biting & ſcratching into the bargain, which for the moſt

moſt part is occaſioned by the quarrelſom, crabbed, laviſh, proud, opinionated, domineering, and unbridled nature of the female ſex. Beſides there are a great number (which I will be ſilent of) who do all they can to pleaſe others, and Cuckold their own huſbands. And others there are that diſguiſe themſelves ſo exceſſively with ſtrong Waters, that a whole day long they can hardly cloſe their Floud-gates. So that you need not wonder much, if you ſee the greateſt part of women (tho they trick themſelves never ſo finely up) can hardly get huſbands; and their Parents are fain at laſt to give a good ſum of mony with them, that they may diſburthen themſelves of them. Inſomuch that it is eaſie to be ſeen that they are in effect of leſs value then old Iron, Boots and Shoes, &c. for we find both Merchants and mony ready alwaies to buy thoſe commodities.

Therefore o you that are yet ſo

happy as to have kept your selves out of this dreadfull estate of marriage, have a horror for it. Shun a woman much more then a Fish doth the hook, Remember that Solomon amongst all woman-kind could not find one good. Observe by what hath befallen those that went before you, what is approaching to your self, if you follow their footsteps. And be most certainly assured that the acutest pens are not able to expound the light & feasiblest troubles and disasters of marriage, set then aside the most difficile and ponderous. Do but read with a special observation the insuing Letter of a Friends advice touching marriage; imprintit as with a Seal upon your heart; and lay fast hold upon that golden expression of the glorious Apostle, *It is good for man not to touch a woman.*

The End of the Ten Pleasures of Marriage.

A LETTER

From one Friend to another,

Desiring to know whether it be advisable to marry.

SIR,

I Must acknowledge that the Letter which you have writ me hath given me some incumbrance, and made me more then three times to ruminate upon the question you propounded to me concerning Marriage; for it is a matter of great importance, that ought to be well pondered and considered of, before one should adventure to solemnize & celebrate it. Several of my familiar friends have troubled me touching the very same subject, and I gave them every one my advice according as they were affected; but me-thinks I ought not to deal so

looſe and unboundedly with you, by reaſon I dare ſpeak unto you with more freedom and truth. Firſt, there are two things which bind me ſtrictly to you, Nature and the Affection; and moreover the great knowledge I have of this ſo neceſſary an evil. I will tell you my opinion, then you may uſe your own diſcretion, whether you will approve of my meaning for advice or not. For my part, I beleeve that of all the diſaſters we are ſubject to in our life time, that of Marriage takes preference from all the reſt: But for as much as it is neceſſary for the multiplying the World, it is fit it ſhould be uſed by ſuch as are not ſenſible of it, and can hardly judge of the conſequences thereof. Neither do I eſteem any man unhappy, let whatſoever diſaſters there will happen to him, if he doth not fall beyond his ſence ſo far as to take a Wife. Thoſe troubles that may befall us otherwiſe, are alwaies of ſo ſmall a ſtrength! that he

he who hath but the leaſt magnanimity may eaſily overpower them. But the Tortures of Marriage are ſuch a burthen, that I never ſaw no man, let him be as couragious as he would, which it hath not brought under the yoke of her Tyranny. Marry then, you ſhall have a thouſand vexations, a thouſand torments, a thouſand diſſatisfactions, a thouſand plagues; and in a word, a thouſand ſort of repentings, which will accompany you to your Grave. You may take or chuſe what ſort of a Wife you will, ſhe'l make you every day repent your taking of her. What cares will come then to awake and diſturb you in the middle of your reſt! and the fear of ſome miſchance or other will feed your very ſpirit with a continual trouble. For a morning-alarm you ſhall have the children to awaken you out of ſleep. Their lives ſhall haſten your death. You ſhall never be at quiet till you are in your Grave. You will be pining at many

many insufferable troubles, and a thousand several cogitations will be vexing your spirits at the chargeable maintenance of your Family. Insomuch that your very Soul will be tormented with incessant crosses, which alwaies accompany this evil, in the very happiest marriages. So that a Man ought in reality to confess, that he who can pass away his daies without a Wife is the most happiest. Verily a Wife is a heavy burthen; but especially a married one; for a Maid that is. Marriageable, will do all that ever she can to hide her infirmities, till she be tied in Wedlock to either one or other miserable wretch. She overpowers her very nature and affections; changes her behaviour, & covers all her evil and wicked intentions. She dissembleth her hypocrisie, and hides her cunning subtleties. She puts away all her bad actions, and masks all her deeds. She mollifies both her speech and face; and to say all in one word,

she

ſhe puts on the face of an Angel, till ſhe hath found one or other whom ſhe thinks fit to deceive with her baſe tricks and actions. But having caught him under the Slavery of this falſe apparition; ſhe then turns the t'other ſide of the Meddal; and draws back the curtain of her Vizards, to ſhew the naked truth, which ſhe ſo long had palliate, and her modeſty only forbad her to reveal: By degrees then vomiting up the venom that ſhe ſo long had harboured under her ſweet hypocriſie. And then is repenting, or the greateſt underſtanding of no worth to you: Perhaps you may tell me, that you have a Miſtris, who is fair, rich, young, wiſe, airy, and hath the very majeſtical countenance of a Queen upon her forehead; and that theſe are all reaſons which oblige you to love her. But I pray, conſider with your ſelf, that a fair Woman is oftentimes tempted; a young, perillous; a rich, proud and haughty; a wiſe, hypocritical;

cal; an airy, full of folly; and if she be eloquent, she is subject to speak evilly: If she be jocund and light-hearted, she'l leave you to go to her companions, and thinks that the care of her mind, is with you in your solitarineſs; and by reaſon she can flatter you ſo well, it never grieves you. If she be open-hearted, her freedom of ſpirit will appear hypocritical to you: her airineſs you will judge to be tricks that will be very troubleſom to you. If she love playing, she'l ruine you. If she be liquoriſh and ſweet-tooth'd, she leads your children the ready road to an Hoſpital. If she be a bad Houſekeeper, she lets all things run to deſtruction, that hath coſt you ſo much care and trouble to get together. If she be a finical one, that will go rich in her apparel, she'l fill the Shopkeepers Counters with your mony. And in this manner her laviſhneſs, ſhall deſtroy all your eſtate. To be ſhort, let her be as she will, she ſhall never

never bring you much profit. In good troth, I esteem very little those sort of things, which you imagine to have a great delight in. 'Tis true, if you take a Wife, which is ugly, poor, innocent, without either air or spirit; that's a continual burthen to you all your life time. The old are commonly despised; the ugly abhor'd; the poor slighted; and the innocent laught at. They are called beasts that have no ingenuity: and women without airiness, have generally but small sence of love. In these last some body might say to you, that one ought to take of them that are indifferently or reasonably well qualified. But I will surge a little higher, and tell you plainly, that that will be just like one who fearing to drown himself at the brinks of a River, goeth into the middle, to be the higher above water. You see now, why I cannot advise you to marry. Yet I would not have you to beleeve, tho I so much discommend

mend it, that it is no waies usefully profitable. I esteem it to be a holy institution ordained by God Almighty. That which makes it bad is the woman, in whom there is no good. If you will marry, you must then conclude never to be any thing for your self again; but to subject your self to the toilsom will and desires of a Wife, most difficult to be born with; to pass by all her deficiences; to assist her infirmities; to satisfie her insatiable desires; to approve of all her pleasures, & what soever she also will you must condescend to. Now you have heard and understood all my reasons and arguments, you may then tell me, that you have a fine estate, and that you would willingly see an heir of your own that might possess it; and that it would be one of your greatest delights, to see your own honour and vertues survive in your children. But as to that I'l answer you, and say, that your reward shall be greater in relieving

lieving the poor and needy; then to leave rich remembrances to Heirs; and procure you an everlasting blessing, that you might otherwise leave for a prey to your children; who it may be are so bastardized in their birth, that they are both Spendthrifts and Vagabonds; for it happens oft that good trees do not alwaies bring forth good fruit. If, when you have seriously perused this my Letter, you are not affrighted at your intention; marry: but if you take it indifferently; marry not. And beleeve me, that a man who is free from the troubles & vexations of marriage, is much happier and hath more content to himself in one day, then another in the whole scope of his Wedlock. And what's more, a single man may freely and resolutely undertake all things, to Travel, go to battell, be solitary, & live according to his own delight; without fearing that at his death he shall leave a Widow and Fatherless

children, who must be delivered over to the Fates, for their friends will never look after them. Hitherto I have kept you up, concerning your intention; and further I give you no other advice, then what by your self you may take to your self. If you marry, you do well: but not marrying, you do better. And if you will incline to me, rather then to marry, you shall alwaies find me to be

SIR

Your very humble servant

A. B.

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